

THE EFFICACY
OF
PERKINS'S
PATENT METALLIC TRACTORS,
IN
TOPICAL DISEASES,
ON THE
HUMAN BODY AND ANIMALS;
EXEMPLIFIED BY 250 CASES,

From the first Literary Characters in Europe and America.

To which is prefixed,
A PRELIMINARY DISCOURSE,
In which, the fallacious Attempts of Dr. HAY-
GARTH, to detract from the Merits of the
TRACTORS, are detected, and fully confuted.

"He that wrestles with us strengthens us." BURKE.

By BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, A.M.
OF LEICESTER-SQUARE; 1774-1810
(SON OF DR. PERKINS THE DISCOVERER.)

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& BRADFUTE, *Edinburgh*.—1800.

[PRICE ONE SHILLING.]

"The TRACTORS have obtained high Reputation at Bath, among Persons of Rank and Understanding."
- - - "The Intelligence of our Enquiries at the Bath Hospital excited great Commotions, accompanied with Threats and Abuse. A Counter-declaration was to be signed by a great Number of very respectable Persons."

Dr. HAYGARTH.

"In Fact, it was often necessary to play the Part of a Necromancer." - - - "The Patient cursed the [fictitious] Tractors as the Cause of his accumulated Misery." - - - "He was seized with a Tremor in his Limbs, and so violent a shivering Fit, that it was judged prudent to desist."

Surgeon SMITH.

I N D E X,

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A CAUTION.

AMONG the various artifices which have been employed by certain interested persons, I have to mention the mean attempt to circulate false Tractors, and, from the failure of these, to throw discredit on the discovery. Three instances of this kind have occurred lately. Complaints having been made to me, that my Tractors would not cure the diseases for which they are recommended, I was led to make enquiry respecting the cases alluded to; and conceiving them fit subjects for the Tractors, I called on the patients to apply them myself. In both instances I found they had been using counterfeit Tractors. Had this not been discovered, the merit
of

of the Patent Tractors must have suffered extremely. In order, therefore, to inform the patient or purchaser of the means of detecting this imposition, it is necessary to state that every genuine set is stamped with the words "PERKINS PATENT TRACTORS;" but as this may be counterfeited, I have had the precaution to accompany each with a paper of directions, at the bottom of which is a receipt for the five guineas, numbered and signed in the handwriting of the Patentee, "BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS;" to counterfeit which, it is unnecessary to add, is felony. As many innocent artificers and tradesmen, from not knowing the nature of my Patent, which secures every possible external application of the metallic influence, may be led into a violation of the law, by making something of a different shape, &c. it is proper to inform them that they are equally liable to damages as their employers. The following is an extract of my Patent, which is granted by his Majesty, and upon which is stamped the Great Seal of England:

"We do strictly recommend that no person or persons, during the continuance of this our Letters Patent [fourteen years] either directly or indirectly, make, use, or put in practice the said invention, or any part of the same, or in otherwise counterfeit, imitate, or resemble, or shall make, or cause to be made, any addition thereto, or subtraction from the same, without the direct consent and agreement of the said BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, his heirs, assigns, &c. in writing, under his or their hands and seal, upon such pains and penalties as may be justly inflicted upon such offenders for their contempt of this Our Royal Command; and further to be answerable to the said BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, his heirs, assigns, &c. for his or their damages thereby occasioned."

NOTICE

NOTICE.

IN my last volume, "*Experiments with the Metallic Tractors at Copenhagen, and in England*," I intimated my intention of forming some arrangement for extending the benefit of the Metallic Practice to the poor *gratis*. This being now completed, those ladies and gentlemen, resident in London, who have purchased the Tractors, are respectfully requested to recommend suitable patients among that useful class, servants, labourers, &c. &c.

In this place it is proper also to remark, that having met with numerous instances, where cures were not effected, for want of a proper knowledge of the mode of using the Tractors, and of the diseases subject to their influence, which the last printed directions did not sufficiently explain, I have thought necessary to issue others more explicit. These are now published, and will be delivered to those Purchasers of the Tractors, who will have the goodness to apply.

PERKINS'S GENUINE PATENT METALLIC TRACTORS, with all necessary directions for using them in form, as mentioned above, may be had, at FIVE GUINEAS THE SET, of Mr. PERKINS, the Proprietor and Patentee, No. 18, Leicester-square. Attendance at home till three o'clock. Patients abroad visited afterwards.

They may be had also of Mr. FREDERIC SMITH, Chemist and Druggist, in the Haymarket, London; of Mr. BENJAMIN BRAY, Chemist and Druggist, Sunderland, Durham; and of C. C. LANGWORTHY *, M. D. of Bath.

* Since the cases in the latter part of this book were printed off, this gentleman has been honoured with a diploma of Doctor of Physic.

*Chas. Whittle, Chemist
& Druggist. Chester*

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

AS every member of Society receives many benefits from the inventions and labours of others, each in his line, it undoubtedly becomes a duty to use every effort in his power to repay the obligation. It is generally acknowledged that there is no object so interesting to mankind as the discoveries of such remedies as may tend to enlarge the bounds of Physic; nay, the great BOERHAAVE, impressed with the truth of this opinion, did not hesitate to assert, that the invention of a new remedy would be of more real value to our species, than the discovery of the mines of Mexico: at all events it will be allowed, that it should be deemed a culpable silence to withhold any new method, more effectual than those already known, for the removal or mitigation of any disease;—especially when the fair application of such remedy has proved successful.—It must not be said, that time should be taken to gain more ample experience; for, let it be considered, that he who waits for an opportunity to do much at once, may breathe out his life in idle wishes, and barren zeal. This is the warning of wisdom against lingering timidity; and such considerations have emboldened me to publish a portion of the numerous cures performed by the Metallic Tractors, founded on the validity of indisputable facts.

Whoever considers the different species of minerals concealed in the bowels of the earth, and the vegetables

vegetables that cover its surface, whose medical virtues are entirely unknown, as they never have been applied either to the purpose of healing the human or brute kind, will not easily believe that the Art of Medicine has arrived at its utmost limit; but rather that there still remains a large field for cultivation and improvement. "It is greatly to be regretted," says Dr. BLACK, "that even medical and surgical knowledge, in the cure of corporeal infirmities, and in the prevention of mortality, is very far remote from perfection, and that important improvements are reserved for the present and future generations."

As these judicious opinions are entertained by gentlemen of the first class in the medical department, it is hoped that the Public will not deem this publication as intrusive, as the object of it is to explain the nature and tendency of the Metallic Practice, and to vindicate that Discovery from the attacks of *prejudice* and *self-interest*.—In order to accomplish this with as little expence of the time, and indulgence of the reader as possible, I have published a few Cases, which perhaps may be found better calculated to explain and satisfy any enquiry on the subject, than an express treatise, composed of mere observations. Some prefatory remarks, however, may be necessary.

The Metallic Tractors have been submitted to the British nation about eighteen months; and in that short space of time, relatively speaking, have acquired a degree of solid reputation, that may be said to brighten from the collision of opponents; and to have, in a manner, entirely dissipated that cloud of prejudice which is always found to hang over any new invention; for, as the Poet says,

"All novelties must this expect,

"If good, our envy; bad, neglect."

As the objections to this Practice, however, which interest

interest (not slightly tinged with malevolence) has conjured up, might leave an improper impression on the Public, if passed over in silence, it is deemed necessary to make a few remarks on them in the course of the present publication. The reader is requested to bear in mind, that it is very remote from the writer's intention to involve one of the most enlightened classes of society in one indiscriminate proscription; on the contrary, it would be the height of ingratitude to omit this opportunity of acknowledging the deep sense which he entertains of the liberal and manly conduct of some of the first talents in the healing art towards him.

On his first publication* on the Discovery in this country, the same men that still endeavour to decry it, loudly proclaimed it, with oracular voice, "a gross imposition; the testimonies adduced therein all forgeries, and the author an errant impostor, whose object was, before his detection, to sell out his right in the Patent, and he heard of no more:"—a severe charge, indeed; and which, in justice to themselves, they ought to have substantiated.

The next attempt was to disseminate an opinion, that the Metallic Tractors must, in many cases, have a very *deterious* tendency; as, "they certainly would repel the gout from the foot to the stomach!" This charge, however, was of shorter date than the other; for one solitary instance in support of it could not be procured, though every information, on so important a point, was courted: on the contrary, the influence of the Tractors is to draw† the

* See "Influence of the Metallic Tractors," published by J. JOHNSON, Bookseller, London.

† See the Cases, page 12, which were communicated to Sir JOSEPH BANKS, by A. B. LAMBERT, Esq; F. R. S. Vice President of the Linnean Society, &c. &c.

the pain after them. Thus a pain in the thigh will follow the Tractors, if drawn from that part to the foot, before it entirely ceases.

The success which uniformly attended the Practice in every quarter, by those who possessed themselves of the Tractors, drew forth at length a reluctant acknowledgment, that *cures* were actually performed; but, at the same time, to detract from the merit, it was pretended, that they ought not to be ascribed to any influence in the metals, but to the *mechanical irritation* of the points of the instruments. The absurdity of the idea that any thing sharp, like the points of the Tractors, should impart relief to a burn, erysipelas, or any very tender and acute inflammation, was too glaring to escape detection. Such applications must evidently increase the disease. If any advantage was to be derived from such a practice, why not use a hard scratching brush, or a saw, &c.? A similar suggestion having been started in America, was thus animadverted upon by the learned Dr. VAUGHAN, F. D. M. S. M. P. M. S. &c. &c. which has since been published, at the request of the Delaware Medical Society*:—"It is argued by some," he says, "who
are

* The following Letter was addressed to Dr. VAUGHAN, by JAMES TILTON, M. D. President of the Medical Society of the State of Delaware, on his consenting to have the Dissertation published: [For some extracts from this Dissertation, see "*Influence of Metallic Tractors*," page 90.]

"Dear Sir,

"I am glad you have at length overcome the restraints of diffidence, by giving us your thoughts on Electricity, in explanation of Dr. PERKINS's Metallic Operation. That some general principle
exists,

are opposed to the Metallic Operation, that the efficacy of the Tractors depends merely on the counter-irritation produced by friction. I would ask those dogmatists, how metallic friction cures burns, or topical inflammation? Does not the least impression on an inflamed part produce pain, and would
not

exists, which gives metals a powerful influence on the animal economy, is now universally acknowledged by philosophers the most candid and best qualified to judge. Instead of involving Dr. PERKINS in the disgrace of MESMER, I apprehend we ought rather to contrast the *honest man* with the *rogue*; for, without art or affectation, Dr. PERKINS barely discloses useful facts, by means the most simple and easy.

"It must be confessed, however, that many reject our general principle: like infidels to the gospel, they admit of no mysteries, and refuse to believe what they do not readily comprehend. Others, who acknowledge that a general principle pervades the animal economy; on which the metals have influence, nevertheless dispute about what this notable power may be. Both these classes of men ought to thank you. To the one you have given a reason they did not apprehend, and the other should wish for the best account known or well understood. For my part, I frankly confess, I shall be satisfied with the principle of ANIMAL ELECTRICITY, until the phenomena are better explained by means of some other.

"By publishing to the world the thoughts you have digested and arranged on Animal Electricity, and the manner in which it explains the Metallic Operations, you will at least invite discussion, and may profit with the rest of your brethren by the event. With great respect, I am, dear Sir,

"Your friend and humble servant,

"JAMES TILTON."

not friction augment the evil? Phlegmons, and some other topical inflammations, may often be removed by exciting a counter-irritation with blisters, &c.; but blisters seldom answer any valuable purpose in local inflammations, accompanied with excessive action of the arterial system, until the fever is previously diminished."

Having thus shifted every ground of plausible objection, till they had not a foot to stand on, they were at length driven to resort to the ærial regions of IMAGINATION! It cannot have escaped the recollection of the reader, that a practice, consisting of an external process, arrested a considerable degree of public attention in Europe, some years since, under the name of Animal Magnetism, that it was eventually exploded on the ground, that it produced effects only through the medium of the imagination. The uninformed order of society, whose feeble minds may be said to be at the mercy of any impression, may be easily brought to think themselves benefited, and in some instances really have derived relief in certain pains and nervous affections from the mere force of imagination. It is therefore now attempted to ascribe the cures performed by the Tractors to the influence of this medium. I should scarce feel myself called on to take any notice of this futile pretension, if I were merely addressing myself to those who had witnessed the effects of the Tractors, and the nature of their cures; but as those who HEAR, have not so good evidence as those who SEE, it may be necessary to say a few words on this subject, merely to prevent any misrepresentation. It is hoped that a few plain facts will abundantly satisfy those who sincerely wish to ascertain the truth, how far this remedy is indebted to the powerful workings of imagination, as its opponents have industriously insinuated. It is demonstrated, so far as a medical fact will admit of demonstration, that the

Traitors are effectual in cases where the imagination can have no possible influence, such as epileptic fits, diseases of infants, and even in the brute creation, such as horses, &c.; that they reduce tumors, and allay inflammations so sensibly, that the change is visible, and that in persons who have evinced great prejudices against them; that the presence of oily substances on the parts affected, resist the influence and prevent their efficacy. Where assertions, involving a fact of considerable magnitude, are advanced, it is reasonable to expect that such assertions should be supported by proofs. In compliance with so rational an expectation, I must beg leave to refer the reader to the numberless statements, which have been made to that effect. To save him, however, as much trouble as possible, about one hundred and fifty cases from the first literary characters in Europe and America may be consulted, in which one or other of these observations are substantiated in the following pages; 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 33, 35, 39, 40, 43, 44, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 74, 79, 81, 83, 84, 85, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 101, 103, 104, 106, 112, 114, 116, 119, 120, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 133, 135.

Can these cures be ascribed to an operation of the imagination? If infants are capable of such mental exertions, why have they been kept "mewling and puking in their nurses lap," and not called to act their part in the cabinet and in the field? Is it believed, as some hair-brained philosophers of old have asserted, that a patient, during a fit of epilepsy, holds communication with immortals, and that his imagination is in consequence irradiated, and rendered tenfold more powerful? Does the horse possess the *anima rationalis*, hitherto considered as exclusively belonging to man? else why has he been driven
into

into the degrading sphere in which he moves; divested of the privileges assigned him at the creation, and not allowed to figure in the page of history amongst the poets, philosophers, and politicians of the world? Are there any soporific qualities in oily and adipose substances to stupify the imagination, divest it of its powers, and render it inert? Can an operation on the mind be employed to the important purpose of removing the inflammation and swelling in the gout, acute rheumatism, stings of venomous insects, contusions, boils, scalds, burns, and the long catalogue of similar topical affections? The affirmative of all these propositions must be substantiated, before it can be pretended, that the imagination is the medium through which the Tractors perform their cures. Another observation, in proof of this already demonstrated proposition, cannot be required by the candid or intelligent, and the subject, it will be conceived, might therefore with propriety be dismissed. Upon the writer, however, there are duties imposed which warrant him in entering into further explanations. The cunning artifices employed to discredit the Discovery, throw odium on its author, and "make him a fixed figure for the time of scorn to point his slow unmoving finger at," now, if ever, demand exposition. Dr. PERKINS, the inventor of the Metallic Tractors, is no more! a few months since, he devoted his life to the cause of benevolence and humanity*.

An

* It is probably known to most of those into whose hands this book may fall, that Dr. ELISHA PERKINS, the author of this Discovery, last autumn, 1799, fell a victim to that destructive malady the yellow fever, at New York. Possibly it may not be unacceptable to the reader to be made acquainted with some of the circumstances of the life of a man, who

An affectionate son, who holds his father's reputation dearer than his own, must feel his injuries keenly indeed, and would not be entitled to that honourable appellation, if he neglected to redress them. I have therefore to solicit indulgence, while I enter a little more into the merits of the question before us, and as the imagination is the only objection harped upon

who has brought to light so extraordinary a Discovery in the physical world. He was the son of Dr. JOSEPH PERKINS of Norwich, Connecticut, one of the most eminent and extensive practitioners, for about forty years, in the State in which he resided. He died at the age of 90, in the year 1795, leaving four sons, two of whom were also physicians. Dr. ELISHA PERKINS, the eldest of these, after he had completed his studies, and qualified himself for entering on his profession; settled at Plainfield, in the county of Windham, where he was soon engaged in an extensive practice. Applications were then made to him to take medical pupils; and for twenty years he admitted as many as he could do justice to. For a long period he was annually elected chairman of the Medical Society of Windham County, and generally the first representative in the Connecticut Medical Convention, of which he was a Fellow. In the course of the last seventeen years, he accidentally met with a phenomenon, which suggested a metallic influence on the animal body. With a view of turning it to some useful purpose, he instantly commenced and prosecuted a course of experiments, which consisted on the application of various metals, and compounds of metals, to diseases. These, however, for many years, added but little to the information he obtained from the first observation. The extreme uncertainty attending the result

upon at present, my remarks will be chiefly directed to the correction of that error.

After ridicule, and affectation of contempt for so "paltry a medical project," had been tried without success, to discredit the Metallic Practice, recourse is at length had to the more specious pretext, *experiment*. To this it is, that the attention of the reader is now particularly solicited. Nothing is less difficult, than to procure and state cases which may produce conviction

of all his experiments, sometimes almost inclined him to think his supposed Discovery was all a fallacy, and the effects ascribable to imagination. In the year 1796, however, he acquired some new ideas on the subject, which led to the Discovery of the unequivocal influence of certain metallic substances on diseases, and the invention of the Metallic Tractors. This was instantly communicated to some of his best friends, who advised him, without delay, to apply for a Patent. As he had a large family, and his affairs considerably embarrassed, in consequence of neglecting the usual calls of his profession, in the prosecution of this his favourite object, added to some pecuniary sacrifices in establishing a public seminary for the education of youth, he was persuaded to adopt the measure, and accordingly repaired to Philadelphia, the seat of government, where a Patent was granted to secure the benefit of the Discovery. The hospitals and other public institutions of that city, were the theatres of some of his first experiments. The reputation, which the practice has since gained, cannot be better conceived, than by observing the numerous communications of the literary characters in all parts of the United States in its favour (see page 87.) In America, as in England, it has not escaped the clamors of interest, ignorance, and prejudice.

When

viction in the mind of a superficial observer, that the effects, which follow an application of the Tractors, are not produced by any property in the metals. Such cases, with that view, have been procured and industriously circulated, not only through the medium of conversation, but in medical societies, and even in public print. These consist of trials of other substances than those of the Tractors, on a certain

When the yellow fever began to devastate the large cities of America, he entertained the idea, that, amongst other remedies, sufficient trials had not been given to powerful antiseptics, and, as he conceived it the duty of a medical man, to run every hazard where the least ray of hope beamed, he resolved on visiting the disorder. Accordingly in 1798, on receiving an invitation from the Board of Health at New London, where the fever was raging, he repaired thither, and thought he witnessed good effects from a preparation of common vinegar, saturated with marine salt, or muriate of soda, and diluted with three-fourths its quantity of hot water and administered warm; a remedy, which he had previously used with great success in the dysentery and scarlatina anginosa, which had been very prevalent and fatal in the New England States some years before [See an account of his practice in the Philosophical Magazine for December 1798, in a letter from Dr. OLIVER.] But, as the fever had nearly subsided on his arrival, he did not meet with cases enough to authorize any thing conclusive. The disease still remaining at Boston, a distance of about an hundred miles, he instantly went to that city, and notified the poor that he would attend them gratis. There, however, from the lateness of the season, he had not an opportunity of putting any

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remedy

certain description of persons, affected with pain, who reported that they were relieved. Here I beg to repeat what I have often had occasion to remark, in my former publications, that if a medical man can be allowed to select his patients, he may go through an hospital, and, by observing due solemnity, and inspiring the necessary confidence in his remedy, he may make the patients generally declare

remedy to the test. During the last summer, 1799, at the usual season for the commencement of the disorder, with an anxious wish to be instrumental in discovering some successful remedy against that growing calamity; unmoved by the solicitations of his friends, he again left his place of residence in Connecticut, and visited New York, about two hundred miles distant. That city soon presented a scene of desolation and despair, and when the inhabitants were flying in every direction, and with them, many of the faculty, he resolved on continuing, and even notified in the public papers his willingness to visit in any parts of the city, all indiscriminately who should apply. This of course immediately overwhelmed him in business, and more especially, as medical assistance was hardly possible to be procured, particularly by the poor, who resided in the most unhealthy situations. He, however withstood the immense fatigue, necessarily arising from so many applications in that intensely hot season, for about four weeks, when, on the 2d of September, he was himself also taken sick, and being previously worn out with attendance on others, he survived only five days, and died at the age of sixty-one.

It may not be deemed the part of an affectionate son to give his father's professional character, or the merit of those attempts at relieving the distressed. Of the former, as a physician, the reader will see (page

declare they have experienced *relief*, (I do not say that they will be *cured*, or that any visible effect will be observable on the part affected) and this shall be done with either a stick, stone, brickbat, skewer, pipe-stem, or indeed without any thing but his bare finger. I shall not insult the reader's understanding by urging, what must be evident to every person, that experiments on hospital patients on this account are far less satisfactory than those on persons of respectability in private practice, where the character of the patient, as well as the disease, is better known [see Dr. PEARSON'S report of Experiments in St. George's Hospital, page 66.] Indeed no declaration of relief from the poor credulous paupers in a hospital, ought to be admitted as evidence in this practice, unless there is a *visible* proof to the by-stander of the alteration; such as the subsiding of inflammations, tumefactions, &c. It has ever been my custom, when I have met gentlemen at the poor-houses or hospitals to try the efficacy of the Tractors, if cases of this description could not be met with, to endeavour, by all possible means, to impress on the patient an idea of the simplicity of the remedy; that possibly he would receive

97) a letter from his Excellency, the Chief Justice of the United States, who was a native and a resident of the same State with the Doctor; and another (page 98) from the Secretary and Fellow of the American Philosophical Society. If the solicitude expressed in the Bulletin of Health at his illness, which it immediately announced in an unusual manner, and the subsequent sensations evinced, when its termination was stated, be any criterion for judging on the second head, his death was lamented as of one who had devoted his life to the cause of humanity, and enriched the healing art with one of her most important remedies.

receive no benefit; and, if so, by no means to say that he had. This is the only method which may authorize a probability that the reports may be relied on. Numerous cases, where such *relief* was reported, have been communicated to me; but, unless a *cure* was effected, or some striking incident was observable, they have ever been regarded as unworthy as evidence; nor will any such cases be found in the following pages. To persuade patients of this class to declare, that they are relieved, and even to think so, nothing more is necessary than to impress on their minds a favourable opinion of the remedy, to induce them to believe that thousands have been cured by the same *wonderfully efficacious* means, and they will be very ready to acknowledge that they begin to feel what others have previously experienced. It is this trick which has been played off on *Fictitious Tractors*, and public hospitals have been sought as the best theatre where such experiments ought to be exhibited; and under circumstances too which are replete with illiberality and injustice. It is due to truth and the Discovery to state, that, notwithstanding the very fair, and, in every respect, honourable proposals ever made both by my friend Doctor LANGWORTHY and myself, not only in our conversation, but in our publications; and our very earnest desire of *witnessing* any trial or trials, which should be made, with the Tractors, with a view of ascertaining their merits, it has never been thought proper to admit either of us to be present on these occasions!! Who can read Dr. LANGWORTHY's very honourable proposals* [see page 86 of this Book],
and

* It is impossible to read Dr. LANGWORTHY's Tract without bearing testimony to his candour, and the favourable propositions he holds out to medical men to assist him in subjecting the Practice to a fair test. This could not but be acknowledged by those
who,

and believe than an assemblage of medical men should go to an hospital in Bath, with the *ostensible* purpose of candidly examining the merits of the Tractors, by the test of *fair experiment*, and cautiously avoid giving him, or Dr. O'CONNELL, who was also an advocate for the Tractors, and who, it was publicly known, would have readily attended on such an occasion, any intimation of their intentions? If it was thought that the Practice could not stand the investigation, and that the world should be apprised of the fact, would it not have been more satisfactory to the Public, to have it stated, that the experiments were made in presence of one of the advocates of the remedy, and, after every fair chance, it could not be proved to have merits? Dr. LANGWORTHY, or Dr. O'CONNELL, it was known, would be solicitous to see that cases were fairly selected, and experiments fairly made, as well as reported.

But the transaction here alluded to, has just been presented to the world by the actors in the farce; and a work is published, with the professed views of arresting "a popular illusion." Were I not liable to damages, for publishing what is secured by copyright to another, I should comply with the advice of my friends, and immediately have that publication reprinted, with a few comments, and sold at a trifling expence, with a view of giving general circulation to a
work

who, on a former occasion, had even treated this subject with scepticism: They say, "Dr. LANGWORTHY is settled at Bath, and, with a view of giving opportunities to the medical practitioners of that place to estimate the real value of the Tractors, he offers his assistance to any paupers in the hospital, and proposes operating in presence of their medical attendants." This is certainly candid."

British Critic, for April 1799.

work which I regard as the most conclusive evidence of the efficacy of the Genuine Patent Metallic Tractors that has yet been produced, when taken in its just point of view. Under this impression, I now feel the propriety of earnestly requesting those who have not a knowledge of the treatment this Discovery receives, and the exertions made to discredit it, to read the tract in question. The more effectually to obtain a correct idea of the merits of the Cases therein adduced, in substantiating what is proposed, it will be absolutely necessary that the present pamphlet be examined at the same time, that the nature and tendency of the Cases in each may be readily ascertained, for in this consists the material circumstance. As the publication just mentioned is ushered into light under a name high on the list of medical fame, and as it is the elaborate result of twelve month's industry, it must be regarded as containing the whole phalanx of evidence which is to attack and deal the fatal blow to this "popular illusion, which has so wonderfully prevailed and spread so rapidly." Here follows the title—"Of the Imagination as a Cause and as a Cure of Disorders of the Body; exemplified by Fictitious Tractors and Epidemical Convulsions. *Decipimur specie*, HOR. By JOHN HAYGARTH, M. D. price One Shilling, 44 p. p. The communications which Dr. H. was enabled to procure amount, *in toto*, to two in number! one from a Mr. RICHARD SMITH, a Surgeon, in Bristol; and the other from the Doctor *himself*. These, with his *own* observations upon them, must be the subject of a brief analysis.

"The Tractors," says our Author, page 2, "have obtained such high reputation at Bath, even among persons of rank and understanding, as to require the particular attention of physicians." After observing that trials should be made with the true and false Tractors, such as wood, &c. keeping the secret

secret from the patients, he proceeds to state, that, with some other physicians, "he contrived two wooden Tractors, of nearly the same shape as the Metallic, and painted, to resemble them in colour" (page 3.) With these, on the 17th of January, 1799, they went to the General Hospital in Bath, and "five Cases were chosen of chronic rheumatism in the ankle, knee, wrist, and hip. One of the patients had also gouty pains. All the affected joints, except the last, were swelled, and all of them had been ill for several months" (page 3.) A detail is then given of the effects of wooden Tractors. They made all the patients, excepting one, say their pains were relieved; but here let me add, neither in these five Cases, nor in a single one, published in the whole book, is it pretended, that a TUMOR was lessened; that an INFLAMMATION was removed; or that a CURE was unequivocally effected, even on these weak-minded patients, by their Fictitious Tractors!! And yet Dr. HAYGARTH has the temerity to infer from these five Cases, that "it need not be remarked how completely the trial illustrates the nature of this popular illusion, which has so wonderfully prevailed and spread so rapidly:" and again, "this evidence is not inferior to what is alledged in favour of the true Tractors!!" (page 5). Reader, after the Cases before you in this book, I should affront your understanding did I give myself the trouble to prove the palpable falsehood of this audacious declaration.—And now see what measures our author himself acknowledges are necessary to make the poor credulous paupers in the hospital "*believe themselves immediately and three remarkably relieved by the false Tractors:*" which seem to be given as a sly hint to other physicians who may also be desirous of playing off a similar artifice upon the Tractors. "If any person would repeat these experiments, it should be done with *due solemnity*." Dur-

ing the process, the wonderful cures which this remedy is said to have performed, ought to be particularly related. Without these indispensable aids, other trials will *not* prove so successful as those which are above reported!!" [page 4.] Is there a single possessor of the Patent Metallic Tractors in England, who has frequently used them, and will say that this fraud is necessary to make *them* perform cures? even where these fictitious ones, with all this "*precaution*," have only drawn out from the patient an assent of *relief*? Or will this imposition, even if practised by the adroit Doctor who recommends it, be found to succeed on infants, horses, or epileptic fits?

The extreme illiberality of this party, and the evident design in not admitting Dr. LANGWORTHY or Dr. O'CONNEL to be present, could not but awaken the resentment of every friend to science, to humanity, and to truth. Even Dr. H. acknowledges, that it "*excited great commotion*," which he thinks proper to describe as follows: "*when the event of our enquiries at Bath was first communicated to the enthusiastic believers, (these, let it be recollected, are acknowledged to have been "persons of rank and understanding") in the efficacy of the Metallic Tractors, the intelligence excited great commotions, accompanied with threats and abuse. A counter declaration was to be signed by a great number of very respectable persons; but I felt much reluctance to provoke them to record their names as dupes of a popular delusion, by which they might be exposed to ridicule during life.*" [page 25.] Without enlarging upon this modest suggestion, so devoid of conceit and vanity, this unparalleled benevolence, in withholding from eternal disgrace the reputation of "*many very respectable characters*," or, railery aside, this wanton abuse of many of the first personages in the British nation, or without exposing
Dr.

Dr. H's treacherous memory, when a little before (page 6,) he intimates that the publication was deferred "with a view to obtain further and more decisive observations on this subject;" I shall merely beg leave to state this circumstance myself. A number of gentlemen, among whom were several of the first nobility in the kingdom, who had previously purchased the Tractors, and obtained a knowledge of their real merits, either by experience or impartial observation, were residing at Bath when this transaction happened. Impressed with a due sense of such a flagrant violation of every principle of honour and justice, these exalted personages came to the laudable resolution, if the cases should appear in the public prints as was proposed, of jointly expressing their disapprobation of such conduct, and of acquainting the public with the real circumstances attending this disingenuous proceeding. An apprehension of detection, and a wish to procure, if possible, something further against the Tractors, procrastinated the publication, from January 1799 to the present time. As those who then resided at Bath, and who knew the circumstances and *object* of those transactions, are, at this distance of time, chiefly scattered over the kingdom, consequently it was well known that it would be extremely difficult to procure the signatures to the refutation, and therefore the author, in the interval, might hope to escape with impunity.

Leaving Dr. H. for the present, I shall proceed to his *volunteer* assistant, Mr. RICHARD SMITH, of Bristol, whose communication is introduced as follows: "With a view to obtain further and more decisive observations on the subject, this paper, [the Statement of the five Cases in the Bath hospital] accompanied with a pair of wooden Tractors, was sent to two medical friends, to Sir W—— W—— in London, and to Dr. M—— in Bristol, requesting

that similar experiments might be repeated in both of those cities. The annexed letter from Mr. SMITH was the *fortunate* result of this communication." [page 6.] It was indeed *fortunate* to be able to procure even *one* person who would permit his name to appear with Dr. HAYGARTH's, as concerned in similar transactions. The two gentlemen to whom Dr. H. sent his Tractors, his communication, and in it, undoubtedly, many persuasive arguments to unite in his views, it seems, notwithstanding, have thought proper to act a different part. Now see what a specimen the new adventurer, Mr. SMITH, immediately gives us of the *candour* and *disinterestedness* with which he commenced his experiments, in the following Letter, addressed to Dr. HAYGARTH :

" Sir,

" Mr. DYER some time since communicated to me the contents of a letter addressed by you to Dr. M—. Considering it the duty of every regular practitioner to check the daring progress of empiricism, I instantly *volunteered* my services to assist in the design of investigating the merits *ignorantly* ascribed to Perkinian Electricity." [page 6.] Here follows a pretty harsh charge, which Mr. SMITH undoubtedly supposed I should hear without emotion, and, like the spaniel, lick the hand that gave the blow. "I sincerely *hope* and trust, that the result of the experiments will open the eyes of the public to so gross an *imposition*.*" [page 7.] We have then

* The weakness and the intemperate zeal of Mr. SMITH has a greater claim upon our pity than resentment. At the very moment the writer was employed in these comments, he received the following Note from the Secretary of the Royal Society—the first and most respectable institution for

then a tedious detail of five cases, treated by fictitious Tractors, formed chiefly of wood, the length of which precludes the possibility of an insertion. In these cases it is acknowledged that every artifice and deception was employed to work on the mind of the credulous patients. Some, in consequence of the terror of his *paroxysms*, were almost frightened to death, and the action upon them might well have warranted the apprehension, that they might have been thrown into fits. A parade of eight medical men, it is conceived, will be readily admitted to be sufficient to strike terror and awe into the stoutest heart, and to give spasms in every muscle, as was the case with some of the poor creatures who were the subjects of their experiments.

Towards the close of these cases, Mr. SMITH drops the following (I must conceive it) *unguarded* fact: "Dr. BEDDOES, to whom I communicated these

for the promotion of natural and useful knowledge—a Society which recognizes only whatever may fall within the sphere of philosophic attraction; and from whom, of course, it cannot be expected that any thing would flow that tended, in the remotest degree, to notice the author of a "gross imposition," or to countenance the "daring progress of empiricism."

To Mr. PERKINS.

"Sir,

"The Royal Society have received your present of Experiments with the Metallic Tractors; and I am directed to return you their thanks for the same.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your most obedient and very humble Servant,

"E. W. GRAY.

"Sec. R. S."

*From the Apartments of the Royal
Society, Somerset Place, Strand,
January 16th, 1800.*

these facts, lent me a pair of the real *Patent Tractors*, for the purpose of trying them when my own failed, but I declare, that in no instance whatever were they used"—(page 13). Is it possible that Mr. SMITH could have entertained such notions of the penetration of the public, as to have supposed there could even be found one weak enough to look to him for authority respecting the *comparative* merits of the *real patent*, and his *fiitious* Tractors, when he declares, that in no one instance whatever has he tried the former? But if the above acknowledgment was unguarded, what will be said of the following remark: "All these cases turned out so *boppily*, it may be imagined they were selected. I declare, however, that they are the first that occur in the minute-book; and, if I could imagine it necessary to add more, there are several remaining equally *successful*"—(page 14). What! has the profession come to such a pass, as that a medical man dares publicly acknowledge that it is a "*boppy*" circumstance, because it is favourable to *his* interest, that his experiments, which were made to try the merits of a discovery before regarded as eminently calculated to relieve the sufferings of humanity, have proved it otherwise!!! Can there be doubts entertained of the object of this *voluntary* investigation, when he calls such results *successful*. *Ob! auri sacra fames! quid non mortalia peclora cogis?* But

"There yet are some on whose dilated breast

"The heavenly dove of pity loves to rest."

A little more from this gentleman, and we shall soon dismiss him. Then, reader, judge whether it is surprising that there should have been produced on the poor victims exposed to his tricks and imposture such powerful operations, and often unfavourable ones, as is acknowledged in the 4th, 8th, and 10th cases, where he "*caused diseases*" instead of removing them; and indeed well nigh did injury

to the patients, of which they afterwards with difficulty recovered. And will it not be apparent, that a man who should commit these acts, and so abuse the confidence placed in him by his suffering patients, is more deserving of the habitation of a mad-house, than the guardian of the lives of the sick and afflicted? "In fact, it was often necessary to play the part of a *Necromancer*, to describe circles, squares, triangles, and half the figures of geometry, upon the parts affected, with the small ends of the Tractors. During all this time we conversed upon the discoveries of Franklin and Galvani, laying much stress upon the powers of metallic points attracting even lightning, and conveying it to the earth harmless. To a more curious farce I never was witness; we were almost afraid to look each other in the face, lest an involuntary smile should remove the mask from our countenances, and dispel the charm"—(page 17). Now, was there ever a more preposterous inference than that Mr. SMITH should have regarded the results of these trials as unfavourable to the merits of my Patent Metallic Tractors, when, with all these exertions on the imagination, he never, with his fictitious Tractors, unequivocally cured a disease, dissipated an inflammation, or tumefaction!! Can an individual be found who will pretend that any of this Necromantial farce is necessary to enable the *Patent Tractors* to cure the complaints which the *Fictitious ones* frequently increased as *relieved*? Do the Patent Tractors make persons "dread the operation so much, that the patient requests it to be done in bed, and then produce a spasm on his *biceps flexor cubiti*?"—(page 12, case 4.) Do they cause the patient to "complain of their cutting him; induce the pains in his knee to return with greater violence, so that he *curst* the Tractors [the fictitious ones] as the cause of his accumulated misery, and no intreaties could afterwards prevail upon him to make
another

another trial?"—(Case 8, page 21.) After *their* application, do we find that "in a few minutes he was seized with a *tremor* in his limbs, and so violent a shivering fit, that it was judged prudent to desist?"—(Case 10, page 23.)

But, in the publication before us, there is ONE CIRCUMSTANCE OBSERVABLE, EXTRAORDINARY INDEED. Were charity to account for it, she would try to palliate it, by ascribing it alone to extreme apathy and negligence in our authors, in not paying the practice more attention before they ventured their observations on the world. What rigid justice would say was the cause, the reader may imagine. Can it be realized, that in this publication, which is pretended to be a faithful examination of the merits of Dr. PERKINS's discovery, there is not a single observation or hint which would lead a stranger to the subject to suppose that the Tractors were ever recommended to cure infants, epileptic fits, brute animals, or even inflammations and tumefactions, of any description; and that my late publication, in which are cited many experiments on horses, is not even mentioned!! The cases adduced in Dr. H.'s book, while these facts remain unknown, appear plausible in the extreme; and I defy any person, unacquainted with them, to peruse what he has published, with a superficial eye, without feeling a conviction that his reports are conclusive, and that the Metallic Practice is completely exploded. It therefore becomes the more expedient that the two books, as has been before suggested, be examined at the same time, in order that the comparative merits of the cases adduced in each may be fairly appreciated—in order to see whether, as Dr. HAYGARTH ventured to say of his experiments, that his "evidence is not inferior to what is alledged in favour of the true Tractors;" to see whether there is not even *caution* observable
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to keep the facts above mentioned behind the curtain. Nay, it shall not be my part to give an opinion of the *views* of Dr. H. in his remarks near the close of his book, respecting his new discovery, that the imagination can produce effects on the human body. I must not do that violation to reason, as to suppose that the learned Dr. H. should not have before had a knowledge of this fact; and indeed that an operation on the mind will and has a thousand times been recorded to produce greater effects than those he has stated.

In the report of the French Commissioners at Paris, who investigated the merits of Animal Magnetism (published by Johnson, London,) which every man of letters *ought* to have read, will be found effects that not even our expert "Necromancer" could produce. There, however, as in his own cases, we shall not find that infants, horses, epileptic fits, tumors, or inflammations, were cured.

The real merits of the experiments published by Dr. HAYGARTH, perhaps cannot be better appreciated than by confronting them with those in the Dispensary at Sunderland (see page 132) on patients recommended by the Lord Bishop of DURHAM, and others. We shall not find evinced in that great and worthy Prelate, or in the Physicians of the Institution, a *predetermination* to expose a "popular delusion," or a "gross imposition." The candid proceedings also of the learned professors at Copenhagen (see page 99) and their consequent decision, that "there was no analogy between the Metallic Practice and Magnetism," ought to excite a blush, if its source is not blunted, in my Bath and Bristol assailants.

Before this subject of imagination is dismissed, the merits of these gentlemen's objection must be considered in one other point of view. And here let me ask, why a remedy, which possesses

lesses such powers, which is capable of rendering such services, is not adopted? Can there be found, in human form, any base enough to abuse the confidence reposed in him, and, from motives palpably lucrative, prefer consigning a patient to disease and death, rather than adopt an innocent and simple operation on the mind, which would so easily and expeditiously restore him to health. Why is the gout, the rheumatism; and the long catalogue of painful topical affections, which resist the powers of medicine, permitted to wear away the hapless sufferer, and render his days a series of misery and pain, when such an antidote exists. To believe that the imagination will perform the cures in the innocent manner which thousands have attested are done by the Patent Metallic Tractors, and not to employ the imagination in preference to internal medicines, which at all times, it is admitted, are not administered without some hazard, is a crime which, for the honour of human nature, it is earnestly to be wished, might be chargeable but to few.

It undoubtedly has occurred to the reader that much unnecessary trouble has been taken in this copious analysis: so would the writer have conceived, had not these experiments made a great noise, and been circulated with inconceivable industry, to discredit the Metallic Tractors. That private method of circulation, viz. verbal communication, while it afforded an opportunity for individual *embellishing*, did not give me a chance of correcting and placing those transactions in their just light; and now that their appearance upon paper has done so, I hope will plead my excuse for giving them a discussion; and still more so when it is reflected that this attack comes from a quarter where every argument against the practice which ability, time, and opportunity could suggest, was certain to be produced.

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I am very well aware that these experiments at Bath and Bristol will be found in reality to have terminated so favourably to the genuine Patent Metallic Tractors, that attempts will be made to insinuate, as indeed has already been done in a certain medical circle, that there was collusion between those gentlemen and myself. But I positively declare that I never saw either of them in my life, and that I have never, directly or indirectly, had any communication with them whatever. To save their reputation; they will undoubtedly make the same asseveration.

In addition to this attack from Bath, I might mention that a journal also, viz. the Monthly Review, has become the vehicle through which some person wittily attempts to depreciate this discovery. I cannot give a better specimen of the disposition he evinces, than by noticing a trifling liberty he has thought proper to take, which is, to impute statements to the book which it does not contain, and sentiments of which its author never so much as dreamt! The reviewer founds his attack and ridicule upon a cure which, with no small share of assurance, he states, was performed in *two minutes*, when it is expressly mentioned not to have been done under forty. And again, when a very respectable physician says, "a man had been bled three times *to little purpose*;" the reviewer, by leaving out "to little purpose," ascribes the cure to the bleeding!!

A Dr. WILLICH also, a native of Germany, now residing in London, has, in a late publication on Diet and Regimen, thought proper to notice this discovery not in the most favourable light. In his table of contents he speaks of it thus, "Metallic Tractors exploded." I need not add more than that, on examining the page referred to, we find his proof of the fact consists in the quotation from the Monthly Review just mentioned.

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This gentleman, it is not improper to add, is a joint conductor, with Dr. B——, of a Medical Journal. From the personal abuse the writer has received from them both, and especially the latter, when they lately met at a medical society, he is warranted in the conviction, that nothing but a continuance of the same spirit need be expected, should the subject be mentioned in the Journal referred to. When it is reflected that, among all the publications which have appeared, that contained evidence *in favor of the Tractors*, these *impartial* Journalists have not thought proper even to notice one! it will not require a power of divination to foresee, that any arguments against the Practice will meet with implicit approbation; and we must not be surprised, if even Dr. Haygarth's tract should instantly be brought before the public, through their medium, and receive every commendation, which such candid Critics can bestow!—But, thanks to the advancement of reason, there are in the world, men who conceive a propriety of hearing both sides of a question, before they decide.

It is an affectation peculiar to some, to pretend to disbelieve facts, if they have not a knowledge of their principle. This is harped upon as an objection to the Metallic Practice. The theory, say they, is not yet thoroughly explained. To men of real science, any notice of this would be unnecessary. They must know that the causes of the operation of most of the works of nature are unknown; and that in regard to medicine, it is particularly the case. None can pretend to say how the bark cures an intermittent fever; mercury the syphilis; or how opium produces sleep, and yet they are not rejected on that account. None can explain the reason why a magnetized needle points towards the poles, and yet, it is believed, the manner will not easily be persuaded to lay aside the
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use of that valuable instrument, because he cannot assign the cause of the polar attractions. That our knowledge of the laws and properties of Galvanism is at present so extremely circumscribed, as not to admit of our giving a complete explanation of the *modus operandi* of the Tractors, I conceive it no disparagement to this discovery to acknowledge. That they do act on the Galvanic principle seems generally admitted by those who have given the subject much attention. Among others who have published their sentiments on this subject there will be found in page 108 of this book, a theory from the learned Professor ABILDGAARD, secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Copenhagen, a philosopher, whose discoveries in electricity, investigations in physiology, and other branches of science, rank him among the first literary characters in Europe. The opinion I early imbibed of the inutilty of theories, has induced me not to attempt them. I have thought it more worthy my attention to collect FACTS, articles more substantial in their nature, and useful in their tendency.

As it may be amusing to some of my readers to investigate the subject of Galvanism, and thereby obtain a knowledge of the wonderful effects produced upon the nerves and muscles by metals; they may consult, for that purpose, the works of GALVANI, VOLTA, VALLI, FOWLER, MONRO, CAVALLI, and VONHUMBOLDT, who are the principle writers on that discovery. CAVALLI, one of the last of these, after summing up the experiments of his predecessors and himself, concludes as follows:

“The principal phenomena of animal electricity, viz. the property of being put in motion by a Metallic communication made between the nerves and muscles, is not peculiar to a few animals, but seems to be a property of all; a law of nature which admits of few exceptions, and these of a very doubtful

doubtful nature. The experiments have already been tried with a great variety of terrestrial, aerial, and aquatic animals. The human body, whilst undergoing certain chyrurgical operations on its recently amputated limbs, have been convulsed by the application of metals. From the ox and the horse down to the fly, the effects of Metallic applications have been repeatedly and unequivocally observed: with some the power lasts longer than with others; the movements also are more or less evident and powerful, according to the various nature and disposition of the animals. The legs of a recently dead horse was agitated so violently by the application of a shilling and a bit of tin-foil, that the strength of a robust man was unable to check the blow. Several animals, which some time ago were thought not to be affected by the contact of metals, have been lately caused to contract, in consequence of the discovery of more active metallic combinations, or of some of their more sensible parts. The preceding pages contain all the remarkable facts that I have been able to collect, relative to a subject which is likely to become of great importance to mankind." (Complete Treatise on Electricity, Vol. III. p. 69.)

In the selection of the Cases in the following pages, of which, however, but a small proportionate number are introduced, preference was given to those which came from persons who had seen most of the practice, and especially to those gentlemen who favoured me with the Cases which appeared in my last publication. A motive for choosing these in particular was, to silence an injurious insinuation which the enemies of this practice, among other stories, have propagated, viz. that these gentlemen had changed their opinions, and regretted they allowed their names to be attached to their cases. Here let me declare, that a *single instance* of this has not occurred, as far as my information extends,

extends, in England or America. On the contrary, as their practice increased, so has their confidence in the remedy. Those to whom I communicated my intention of publishing this Tract, voluntarily proposed to send me more Cases.

To be continually exposed to artful and malicious insinuations was ever expected. Every innovation in medicine must meet with opposition; an instance to the contrary has not occurred in medical history. HARVEY was persecuted, and attempted to be ridiculed, during most of his life, for asserting the circulation of the blood. The bark, opium, mercury, and antimony, four of the most valuable medicines in the *materia medica*, have all had their persecution, by the faculty, and have been brought into use only by the unremitting exertions of benevolent and disinterested men; and those generally of the lower orders in society.—JAMES'S Powder was supported by testimony nearly as respectable as that in favour of the Tractors, and who has not a recollection of the opposition it received, and that a pamphlet was published against that also?

Two other things have been harped upon against the Tractors. First, that their price should be an objection to their use; and secondly, that, as it is *Patented*, it should be opposed on the ground of its being a *quack* remedy. These do not in reality merit a serious reply; what person who ever employed a physician, through one fit of sickness, will pretend that five guineas is an unreasonable sum for a remedy, which may be so long preserved in a family, and cure so many of the diseases to which it is daily liable. The objection raised against quack medicines is, that, as they are often composed of powerful ingredients, if not used with judgment, they may do material injury, instead of service. The *innocence* of the Metallic Practice silences every clamour on this head.

It will be readily admitted, that there never was a practice before the public, so eminently calculated, from its nature and tendency, to encounter obstacles, before its merits were properly ascertained and acknowledged, as the present. The circumstance of the innocence, as well as the efficacy of the remedy, must occasion an indiscriminate circulation of it, in the hands of persons, totally unacquainted with the nature of diseases. The Tractors will consequently be tried in a thousand cases for which they are not recommended, and must necessarily often fail, and thereby have discredit attached to them. This, indeed, is a circumstance much more interesting to the practice, than is generally apprehended. Among many also there will never be found patience to give them half a trial. Their apparent simplicity, so much unlike the consequence attached to a pompous display of drugs, often excites disgust and an unwillingness to have them even applied; and here I should notice a most egregious error, which many have imbibed, in consequence of the publication of several cases, where the cures were performed in a few minutes, and by a single operation. Very much to the injury of the Tractors, this has been generally expected, and they have been laid aside when this has not taken place. Whereas it is often necessary, that they be repeated three times a day for many weeks. To this circumstance may be added, the disposition there must ever be, where medical influence prevails, to have recourse to them only as a *dernier resort*, after medicine, and the skill of the faculty have failed, and when the disease, in consequence, has advanced to such a state, as not to be subdued by human means.

Nothing but a firm reliance on the superior merits of the remedy, and a conviction that truth would in the end prevail, could have induced the discoverer

discoverer to have adopted the custom of selling them indiscriminately, before their credit had been established, by previously retaining them a time in the hands of a few individuals.

As a considerable portion of the preceding pages is devoted to noticing attacks upon this Discovery, it may have been impressed upon the reader, that the writer intended to extend his censure and complaint to the profession at large. It may not be improper to repeat, that such an idea never entered his thoughts. It would be the extreme of injustice and ingratitude not to acknowledge, that very lately, many of the most eminent of the medical profession have honourably come forward, acknowledged the merits of the Tractors, and adopted them in their practice. Some, indeed, have with much independence publicly notified their friends to this effect. The worthy and respectable Dr. MATHER, of St. Alban's Street, Pall Mall, deserves my acknowledgments for his candour on this occasion. The following is a copy of a notification which appeared from him in one or two of the public prints. "JOHN MATHER, M. D. Member of the Royal College of Physicians, London, informs his friends and the public, that, conceiving it his duty to adopt any remedy, which *experience and attentive observation* assure him is eminently calculated to relieve the sufferings of his patients, in a variety of painful topical disorders, he proposes to add to the usual remedies, PERKINS'S PATENT METALLIC TRACTORS, which probably may most successfully be applied by a medical hand. Though they do no harm where they are not of service, he has sufficient reason for believing that they possess great powers, when a proper discrimination is made, as to the nature of the disease. Hours of attendance at home from 11 'till 2 o'clock, patients abroad visited afterwards."

The opinions of those whose profession it is to decide on truth and error, by *fair* investigation, it should seem are entitled to greater weight, than those of prejudiced and interested men.

The following are the criticisms of the Monthly Journalists on the first publication of the Author in England, entitled, "*Influence of Metallic Tractors on the Human Body, presenting the History of the Discovery, and the Experiments of Literary Characters in America.*" (Johnson, Bookseller, price 2 s. 6 d.)

"This pamphlet contains the result of many experiments made in the United States, by gentlemen of high respectability and literary talents."

Analytical Review for June 1798.

Now see what is acknowledged even by a Medical Review.

"The evidence adduced respecting the power of the remedy here recommended, is apparently so strong both in nature and extent, that no inconsiderable importance attaches to the subject, and we are led to give a more extended account of it than we might otherwise have deemed necessary." Again, "The testimonies adduced in support of the Tractors are at least honourable, if not decisive. Many come from persons not of the medical profession, but who, nevertheless, seem *competent* on the present occasion; for the subject is for the most part an appeal to the common senses. Others of the facts are vouched for by Members of the Medical Profession, of high and distinguished character." After a copious extract from the book, they conclude, "We have thus thought it our duty to go much at large into the evidence which has been brought forward in support of the alledged power of the Metallic Tractors, for, unquestionably, if there be no error or misconception of facts, the importance of the Discovery is great indeed. Where the proofs are so many and so strong, it would be *unreasonable* to question them

them on any other grounds than cautious and fair experiments" *Medical and Chirurgical Review for November 1798.*

"Dr. PERKINS applies the new science of Galvanism to various diseases of the body. The effects of his Metallic Tractors in America appear to be well supported by evidence; and we have heard persons in this country speak of them with commendation."—*Critical Review for February, 1799.*

"The utility of a fluid, whose source is unknown, but which we formerly supposed to be electrical, has been lately revived by an American practitioner, Mr. PERKINS, through the medium of a simple instrument, called *Tractors*, from their supposed power of drawing off diseases. Mr. PERKINS's treatise on "*The Influence of Metallic Tractors*," contains various testimonies of their good effects, and they are said to be patronised by some respectable practitioners of this country. It is, indeed, Galvanism applied to the relief of diseases."

New Annual Register, published October, 1799.

The *Philosophical Magazine*, another valuable record of the literature of the age, has treated the evidence of the efficacy of the Tractors as equally respectable.

Of Mr. LANGWORTHY's Tract, entitled "*A View of Perkinian Electricity*," &c. are the following observations:

"Mr. LANGWORTHY is settled at Bath, and with a view of giving opportunities to the medical practitioners of that place to estimate the real value of the Tractors, he offers his assistance to any paupers in the hospitals, and proposes operating in presence of their medical attendants. This is certainly candid; and it is right to observe, that several of the Cases, here published, are attested by the signatures of the patients, who are, in general, persons of

such credit, as entirely to preclude all suspicion of an intention to deceive."—*British Critic*, April, 1799.

The Author's last volume, viz. "*Experiments with the Metallic Tractors in England and at Copenhagen, on the Human Body and on Horses*," has been so recently published, that but few of the Reviews have yet noticed it. The decisive manner, however, in which the merits of the Metallic Practice are spoken of in every one of these, may give some idea of the progressive credit of the Tractors.

"The new Science of PERKINISM finds many advocates on this side of the Atlantic. In the volume before us, we have experiments and observations of characters of high authority in the learned world. The first part of the book reports about fifty Cases, in which the Tractors were tried by several eminent physicians of Copenhagen, and which were in general attended with success. Although these trials were made under unfavourable circumstances, from not possessing sufficient directions for using the Tractors, as well as explaining the kinds of diseases most subject to their influence, Professors HERMOLDT and RAFFN, to whom the cases were communicated for publication, declare themselves authorized in concluding, that the arguments against *Animal Magnetism* will not apply to *Perkinism*, and that the latter is of importance to the healing art. The most valuable paper, in the Danish collection, is from Professor ABILDGAARD, well known for his discoveries in Electricity. This philosopher has given his opinion respecting the Theory of PERKINISM, which he explains on electrical principles. He has reported some curious experiments with the Tractors, which demonstrate, that they do not act from their *mechanical irritation*. "In the second part of the book, are introduced the Cases which have occurred in England, and which indeed are very numerous, and of respectable authority. Among

Among these we have some of a different class from those hitherto published, viz. upon HORSES. *It would be invidious not to admit, that these results must effectually do away the idea, that the Tractors produce their effects through the imagination.* One gentleman observes, that he could perceive a swelling diminish, when using them upon his hunter, which met with severe contusions by a fall. On the whole, we have no hesitation in acknowledging that the experiments adduced in this work, are of such a nature, and so respectably attested, as to go very far towards removing the doubts we formerly expressed of the efficacy of this novel practice."

Novelties of Literature (No. CCCXXIII.) Oct. 1799.

"Suspicion never fails to attend every publication, which relates to an article sold by the author. In the present work, we see nothing which should induce us to doubt the facts stated by Mr. PERKINS. These Metallic Tractors have been tried by many scientific characters in America, where they originated, as well as in several parts of Europe. They are now sold, under a Patent, in England, where they have also been successfully tried in many instances; and it would be at once cruel and unjust, to suggest, on slight grounds, and still more so, without any ground at all, such reflections as might tend to lessen the reward due to a meritorious invention. The remarks of Professor ABILDGAARD on the Theory of PERKINISM are candid and ingenious." After a long quotation they thus conclude; "Indeed, of diseases where relief has been obtained by the use of the Metallic Tractors, there are so many Cases in this work, authenticated by well known respectable characters, that it must be the extreme of audacity and folly absolutely to deny their efficacy."—*Weekly Review and Literary Journal*, October, 1799.

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"The Cases and Experiments here stated are of so persuasive a nature, and many of them so strongly authenticated by persons of character in Germany and in Great Britain, that they certainly deserve credit. Not being able ourselves to conceive the nature of the *influence* operated by passing the Tractors over the parts affected, we sat down to the inspection of this volume, certainly with no prepossession in favour of the Discovery; but the person who can peruse the whole without being inclined to wish the Practice may be extended, must be of 'little faith' indeed."—*London Review for October, 1799.*

The subject resumed in the same Review on the following month.

"This publication announces good news for almost every class of invalids; a remedy nearly immediate is here proposed and authenticated by characters who cannot be suspected of ignorance or connivance with imposture. Of all medical discoveries urged on public attention from motives palpably lucrative, we are naturally and properly suspicious; as of nostrums and arbitrary prescriptions there is no end. These Tractors, however, have become, from the wonderful effects ascribed to them, objects of just and general solicitude. And we are glad, for the honour of the Discovery, and more for the amelioration of our common nature, *which they amply promise*, to see them brought forward in so questionless a shape."—*London Review, for November, 1799.*

"Though we, in common with most cautious persons, view with a jealous eye attestations of medical cures of an extraordinary sort; yet we are not incredulous enough to resist the force of respectable evidence. The Cases and Experiments here reported are such as claim examination. The persons who have given their sanction to the cures here noticed,

ticed, seem to be respectable, and entitled to credit."—*European Magazine*, for November, 1799.

Here, then, the reader has been presented with the decisions of learned and ingenious men; persons who, before they judged, it is to be presumed, candidly examined, reflected, and compared. Their observations, it is believed, are such as will ever arise from a dispassionate investigation of the numerous facts which have been adduced relative to this Discovery. The writer would not be understood that he regards these extracts as evidence equally conclusive with those respectable attestations, which will be found in the following pages. The facts there stated speak for themselves, and few will be found among my readers, who possess not sufficient discernment to give them their due appreciation; notwithstanding the misinterpretations, which designing and interested men will ever be industrious in throwing before the public; and through no medium more frequently than in the Journals above quoted. Nor will the reader require further explanations to enable him to ascertain whether the opposition to an *innocent* remedy, which has, and still promises to be productive of so much mitigation of human suffering, *effected upon whatever principle it may*, can have its origin in benevolence, humanity, honesty, or truth.

The major part of the cases which follow, it will be seen, are from medical gentlemen of high and distinguished character; some, however, are from persons not of that profession—These must not be regarded as of one whit less importance. They are from men of science, understanding, and probity. It is not required to have spent three years in dissecting the human body, or in learning the use of different drugs, to be competent to give testimony on this subject.—The knowledge, which may authorise us to speak on effects produced by an external application, in topical diseases alone, is very unlike
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that which would be necessary, where internal remedies are used, in complicated affections. Good eyes, in a character uninfluenced by prejudice, or *interest*, may give testimony respecting the change *observable* in an inflammation or a tumefaction, on an application of the Tractors, which is more satisfactory, than all the medical knowledge in the universe, without those requisites.—So evident was this, it could not but be acknowledged, even by medical writers.—We have seen (page 1.) the Medical Review observe, that some of the testimonies “come from persons not of the medical profession, but who, nevertheless, seem competent on the present occasion, for the subject is for the most part an appeal to the common senses.”

It must ever be a painful task, to be compelled to enter into those discussions, which necessarily oblige us to employ so much censure, as may be found in the preceding pages.—I can only say, that what has been advanced, I have regarded as a duty imposed upon me, by a respect to mankind, to the discoverer, and to TRUTH.—Whether such sentiment was well founded, I have a perfect willingness to submit to the candid reader to determine.

CASES OF PRACTICE
WITH
PERKINS'S
PATENT METALLIC TRACTORS,
IN ENGLAND.

COMMUNICATED BY MR. J. A. MANT, SURGEON
OF SOUTHAMPTON, TO THE AUTHOR.

THE three first Cases, adduced below, it will be observed, were not witnessed by Mr. MANT, personally; but in his letter accompanying them he says, "that having the account from so sensible a man and so respectable a character, I cannot entertain the smallest doubt of the facts, especially as they are corroborated by the testimony of the patients themselves whom I have examined."

The gentleman to whom Mr. MANT alludes is WALTER TAILOR, Esq. of Potswood Green, Southampton, well known to the Public as a scientific character, and for some very valuable and useful improvements in Ship blocks, lately adopted by the Navy. He was one of the early purchasers of the Tractors, and from having had them in his possession more than a year, is now well qualified to make a proper report on their merits. The other Cases occurred in the practice of Mr. MANT himself.

CASE I. *A periodical Pain in the Hand.*

"MRS. TAILOR, above Bar, Southampton (no relation to the above-mentioned gentleman) had for thirteen years past been attacked, some time in the course of every night, with a very acute pain in one of her hands, for which she had recourse to many medicines and applications without effect. About four months since the Tractors were first applied, and she soon began to experience benefit

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from them. It is worthy of observation, that this happening in the night, they were never applied when the pain was present, but acted as a sure preventive of its return. She has since been attacked by it only very slightly, and a few minutes application of the Tractors always relieves her, but she sometimes passes two or three weeks together without the least return of pain.

CASE II. *Sprain and Contusion.*

"WALTER TAILOR, Esq. of Potswood Green, Southampton (the gentleman above mentioned) met with an accident in descending a flight of stairs, by which his leg was bent under him, and sprained in such a degree that he was unable to rise: the most violent pain in the muscles ensued. His servants having supported him to a sofa, he immediately had the Tractors applied, which he purchased of you; and, to use his own expression, "after continuing "the operation fifteen minutes, the pain seemed to "leave me as if I had taken it off with my stocking. "It appeared to descend lower and lower, till at "length I, as it were, shook it off my toes." He immediately got up and walked, never having found any inconvenience from the injury since.

CASE III. *A Scald.*

"The gentleman, mentioned in the last case, employs a number of men in a foundery, one of whom let fall some melted metal on his leg, and scalded it to a large extent. On applying the Tractors twice, the effects of the scald were removed, and the man enabled to return to his work the next day.

CASE IV. *A painful inflammatory Swelling in the Ankle.*

"I was called to a young lady on the 23d instant [March 1799] who, without any knowledge of having

ing been the subject of a sprain or contusion, was affected with an inflammation and tumefaction in one of her ancles, attended with acute pain on the slightest motion, particularly if she attempted to ascend stairs. Not recollecting the Tractors at the moment, I directed her to apply a poultice to the part. About five hours after I visited her again, and then used the Tractors for about twenty minutes, which produced a slight diminution of the swelling. They were again applied for the same space of time, about an hour after, and used at intervals. The next morning she was so much better as to be able to walk out, without experiencing but little inconvenience, whereas the day before she could not move two steps without very great pain. On the succeeding day, 25th, she rode thirty miles into Suffex, and her ancle to this time [March 31st] remains perfectly well.

CASE V. Inflammation in the Eyes, attended with violent Pain.

“RICHARD LEE, of North Shields, Captain of the ship Brothers (a transport at this port to carry troops to Portugal) was seized, March 27th, with an intense pain and inflammation in one of his eyes, which he said was increased by washing it with brandy and water. On the 28th, he called on me for advice; I immediately applied the Tractors. After fifteen minutes he said he was better, and in twenty exclaimed with joy that “he was perfectly easy.” Having discontinued their use, he afterwards had a recurrence of pain. The operation was again had recourse to, and in a few minutes he was perfectly relieved. The inflammation had in some measure subsided. When I drew the Tractors across the eye-lid towards the temple, he assured me he felt the pain follow it to the external angle, where it ceased, after applying the Tractors an hour

in the whole. He remained perfectly easy, and went away. Being obliged to weigh anchor immediately, I am unable to obtain any further knowledge of the case.

"I should not neglect to mention a circumstance, which I think merits observation. I directed this man to open his inflamed eye; indeed my assistant and myself held the lids, while I drew the Tractors (about half an inch distant) over the pupil and cornea of the eye. The second time of doing this he started up, and exclaimed, he could not bear it, as it occasioned such violent pain, and seemed to a bystander to have an effect exactly similar to an electric shock; but the patient never having received such a shock, and being entirely uninformed on the subject, could only give me an idea of it, by saying it felt as if I had plunged a knife into his eye."—

Mr. MANT, with that prudence which becomes every medical man, determined on not suffering his name to appear, as vouching for the authenticity of any case, to which he had not been *himself an eye witness*. When he favoured the author with the three first cases, not having been in possession of the Tractors but a few days, he had *seen* no experiment, and consequently observed, "I cannot by any means consent that my *name* be mentioned as having forwarded them to you;" and in concluding his letter repeats, "I must again beg my name may not be made use of, until I have myself had opportunity for investigating the properties of the Tractors."

In a subsequent letter, with his own Cases, he observes, "I am now perfectly convinced of their [the Tractors] very great efficacy, and shall do every thing in my power to promote your interest, and that of society at large, in causing it to be possessed of so desirable a remedy against so numerous a train of diseases."

Extract

*Extract of another Letter from Mr. MANT, dated Nov.
15th, 1799; several months after the above.*

"I am more than ever satisfied that the Tractors are beneficial in a number of diseases. The complaints which I have found most subject to their influence are Inflammations arising from accidents, and Pains from cold. The following Case, of the latter description, I think not unworthy of notice:

CASE VI. Pain and Stiffness in the Neck.

"A patient of mine had been affected for three days with a constant aching pain in the muscles of the neck, attended with great stiffness, which caused an inability to move the head without occasioning the pain to increase to a very violent degree. The disease originated from exposure to cold and rain, while crossing the river in an open boat. After applying the Tractors a quarter of an hour, relief was obtained; in forty minutes great benefit was received; and after using them an hour and five minutes, the pain and stiffness entirely ceased, and did not return.

"I am truly sorry that there should be unfair attempts to depreciate the merits of the Metallic Practice. Persuaded as I am of its beneficial influence, I cannot but think, that in the end the fact must be acknowledged by every medical practitioner, however willing he may be to shut his eyes against it.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

J. A. MANT."

JEFFERY O'CONNELL, M.D. BATH, TO THE
AUTHOR.

"Sir,

"I am happy to have it in my power to communicate to you the particulars of a Case, which I presume to think cannot be deemed unimportant by any physician or professional person, who, in the

course of his observation, must frequently witness singular variations and anomalies accompanying particular disorders.

Symptoms of Apoplexy terminating with an uncommon Crisis.

"M. RICKETTS, statuary, aged 54, enjoying a tolerable state of health, and not of a full habit of body, being in his workshop on the 13th January last, fell down suddenly in a fit, with a total loss of sense and motion. The lower part of the *occiput* hitting against the edge of a packing-box, occasioned a considerable laceration, and a profusion of blood. In the space of half an hour he recovered himself in some measure, but without any recollection of what had happened. He was then put to bed, and instantly complained of a most intense head-ach, for which he was bled, and had leeches applied to his temples. An eminent physician visited him, who prescribed according to his judgment, but there was experienced no diminution of pain. Eleven days elapsed in this alarming state.

"Hathought of the Tractors. MRS. RICKETTS implored me to see her husband. From her statement of the case, I was not warranted in supposing it within the probability of their *sphere of action*, naturally concluding a great pressure on the brain, perhaps extravasation. To comply with her ardent wishes, I went, but determined, for obvious reasons, not to use the Tractors: it was about nine at night. An inflammatory diathesis appeared to prevail, particularly in his eyes. His pulse full and tense. No symptoms of delirium, but the pain was inexpressible. I remarked, that he more particularly was rubbing the orbit of his left eye. "Here," he said, "my greatest pain lies. This is *torture*. "I feel pain over all my head, but it is bearable
"compared

"compared with this part." On a closer inspection, I found that he pursed up in some measure the eye lid. This circumstance struck me forcibly, having sometimes seen and experienced myself such a sign to attend an intermittent ophthalmia*. I thought more favourably of his case, and as he still wished a trial of the Tractors, I consented to their application. I moved them in a circular direction over the left orbit in contact with the skin. In about eight minutes his countenance suddenly cleared up, and he exclaimed, "Now, now I am in heaven!" I continued the application a quarter of an hour, when he no longer felt pain, but with the composure of a person in perfect health put on his cap. In the mean time observing *symptoms of stultence*, I was led not to apprehend a preponderance of inflammation, but rather to rely on that symptom as a *diagnostic*. I thought the Tractors acted as a *good compass*, and I began to be sure, as it were of *my latitude*. I entertained some expectations that the case might terminate in an intermittent; they were realized. For three successive mornings the pain affected him, though in a slight degree, from four o'clock until about nine. I operated on him afterwards very superficially; but as the stomach appeared now evidently in fault, I was convinced nothing could affect that part of the cure but one or two timely emetics, and, if necessary, afterwards

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the

* A complaint in the eye, recurring daily at a stated period, and principally owing to a morbid state of the stomach. This is more frequent in the south of Europe than in our northern climate. During some years residence in Lisbon, I met with several cases of the kind, and experienced myself a regular succession of them every spring for six years; as in regular tertian agues, they yielded to emetics and the bark.

J. O'G.

the bark. He followed my instructions. The *for des* was immense in consequence of the emetic. He has not experienced the slightest return of the headache, and is now in perfect health. It appears to me evident, that the Tractors alone stopped the dreaded apprehension of delirium and imminent danger.

"I beg leave to add a reflection. As the very intense symptoms which accompanied this case did not, during the course of eleven days, yield in the least degree to the usual mode of treatment, may we not reasonably infer, that the Tractors possess a very considerable sedative power in some febrile cases, which has not hitherto been suspected. An alleviation of the most alarming symptoms might be thus obtained; greater light reflected on the new principle of the action of metals on the human frame, and unexpected truths arise for the advancement of medical science and the benefit of mankind.

"I am, Sir,

"Your very obedient servant,

"J. O'CONNELL."

Bath, March 1st, 1799.

The Three following LETTERS were addressed to Mr. CHARLES C. LANGWORTHY, Surgeon, of Bath, of whom E. LAMBERT Esq; the very worthy and respectable character hereafter mentioned, purchased the Tractors.

REV. THOS. DAVIES, RECTOR OF SHERRINGTON.

"SIR,

"I feel a pleasure in communicating to you what I have witnessed of the influence of my Metallic Tractors in relieving the afflicted, in the two following cases especially; besides several Instances of TOOTH ACHE, HEAD-ACHE, &c. in which their efficacy was also fully proved.

"The first Case, which I shall here but just mention,

tion, is that of Miss GAUNTLETT, a young woman of my parish, of whose extraordinary complaints and sufferings you have had already, I find, some knowledge, by report; but that which the Tractors were now immediately applied to was,

A Paralysis of the Esophagus.

which had for more than a year and a half, entirely deprived her of the power of taking any sustenance, but by the means of a proper tube; which, wonderful as it may appear, was, by the use of the Tractors, restored. Of the particulars of this Case I here forbear making further mention, as Miss GAUNTLETT is about to send them to you herself, and to which I shall beg leave to refer you.

“The other Case, in which a complete cure was effected by the Tractors, and that by only three applications, for about half an hour each time, was

An acute Rheumatism.

“The patient was a widow woman of this parish upwards of fifty years of age, and had been for several years grievously afflicted in almost all her joints and limbs, but which at last was confined to both her knees. These were inflamed and swelled to that degree, that she was unable to move or stir without all the pains and tortures usually attendant on such complaints.

“Should the publishing of the above Cases in any measure contribute towards removing the prejudices which may prevail against so useful a discovery, you are at liberty so to do.

I am, Sir, with due respect,

Your very obedient humble servant,
THOMAS DAVIES.”

Sherrington,
January 22d, 1799.

Here follows the statement from Miss GAUNTLETT, the lady mentioned in the last letter.

" Sir,

" Being informed by my brother, the Rev. Mr. GAUNTLETT, that you are desirous of receiving from me a statement of the relief I experienced from the application of Dr. PERKINS'S Metallic Tractors, I will accordingly give you a brief account of the Case. I cannot, indeed, think of enumerating all my complaints, and stating my Case at large, as that would be the work of a volume, having laboured under a complication of very extraordinary disorders for more than eight years; but of the complaint from which I have been relieved by the Tractors, the following are the particulars:

" In the beginning of June 1797, in addition to my usual afflictions, I was seized with a violent pain in my side, and some other complaints, which were supposed to be dangerous. About a month after this attack, I was frequently in a state of insensibility. In this situation liquids were often put into my mouth, which would not pass the throat, and when I became sensible, I found

The Power of Swallowing was totally lost.

" At this time I was attended by Mr. BOWLE, a Surgeon of Market Lavington, who applied blisters, electricity, &c. but without any effect. After continuing in this state about twelve days, Mr. BOWLE thought of the expedient of supporting me with liquids through an elastic tube, put down the throat into the stomach; and this contrivance, I have reason to believe, was the providential means of preserving my life.

" In this manner was I supported till June 1798, when I was taken with a violent sickness. Nature made many efforts to throw off the offending matter, but was for a long time prevented by the paralysis of the throat. At length, however, a vomiting commenced,

menaced, which continued for four or five hours, and a large quantity of coagulated blood and matter was thrown off my stomach. The act of vomiting in some measure restored the power of action in my throat, so that I was enabled, though with difficulty, that night and the next morning to swallow some small quantities of liquor, without the use of my tube; but in the course of the day the power was totally lost again. After this I had two or three returns of the power of swallowing, similar to that mentioned above, but always of short duration, so that I was obliged to continue the use of the tube. But from this extraordinary complaint, about six weeks since, I was wonderfully relieved by the application of the Tractors.

“EDMUND LAMBERT, Esq; of Boyton, a very respectable and well-known gentleman and magistrate, purchased a set of the Tractors, which he recommended me to use. The Rev. Mr. DAVIES, the rector of Sherrington, who is well skilled in the theory of medicine, was so obliging as to apply them. I submitted to the operation, but with little expectation or hope of any relief. In about the space of fifteen or twenty minutes, I felt a great tingling and heat in my throat, which was afterwards followed by a gentle perspiration. After this tingling heat, I found the action of my throat so far recovered as to be able to swallow the saliva. I then called for a glass of water, which I drank without any great difficulty. After a few hours the power of swallowing was again lost, and in the manner already mentioned, was again restored the next day by the use of the Tractors.

“In less than a fortnight, by the repeated use of the Tractors, the action of my throat was perfectly restored, and I have been able to support myself from that time to the present without the use of my tube.

The above is a statement of facts, and if you think them important, you are at liberty to publish them.

"I am, Sir, your humble servant,

"ELIZABETH GAUNTLETT."

Sherrington, near Heytesbury,

Wilts, Jan. 21st, 1799.

EDMUND LAMBERT, *Esq*; SENIOR MAGISTRATE
IN THE COUNTY OF WILTS, FELLOW OF THE
LINNEAN SOCIETY, &c. &c.

"Sir,

"Having been informed that some persons are prejudiced against the use of Dr. PERKINS'S Metallic Tractors, in justice to them, I state to you what I have experienced of their efficacy. I purchased a set of the Tractors about two months ago; at that time, with a view of immediately lending them to my neighbour, the Rev. Mr. DAVIES, of Sherrington, who made use of them with the desired effect in two or three cases, the particulars of which I understand will be communicated to you. I shall therefore confine myself to the proofs I have had of their efficacy in my own family. Besides being effectual in removing, in several instances, the TOOTH-ACHE, there are two cases which particularly merit notice, one of which respects myself.

"I have been for many years severely afflicted with

The Gout,

and usually had violent fits of it every four or five weeks. Since, however, I have been in possession of the Tractors, I have had nothing like a severe paroxysm, having applied them at the first symptoms of a return, and found them effectual in *drawing off* the inflammation: so that the name * which Dr.

PERKINS

* From the Latin verb, *Trabo*, to draw.

PERKINS has given them is, in my apprehension, characteristic of their action, and notion, that some ignorant persons have imbibed, of their *repelling* the gout, fully refuted. The last attack was about three weeks since: I was seized in the night with a violent pain in my right knee, and had all the usual symptoms of an approaching severe fit. The Tractors were applied three times on the following day, and at evening I had the happiness to find all my fears dispelled, the pain and inflammation being entirely drawn off, and nothing remained but a small degree of stiffness, which was removed the next morning, by ten minutes use of the Tractors, and, I thank God, I have been perfectly well ever since.

"The other case to which I alluded, was that of a servant of my brother-in-law, Mr. SEYMOR, of Hanford, Dorset; who, in coming to my house, had the misfortune, by a fall, during the late frosty weather, to

Bruise the Knee.

near the patella, in such a manner as to produce a great inflammation, and totally prevent his walking. Upon the application of the Tractors the inflammation abated, and, in less than half an hour, to the man's great astonishment, he was able to walk as well as ever, and has had no symptoms of the injury since, though his knee remained discoloured by the bruise a long time afterwards.

"I have only to add, that, in every instance in which my set of the Tractors have been tried, they have been found to answer the desired end. If you think this letter will be of any service in establishing the deserved reputation of Dr. PERKINS's Discovery, you are at liberty to publish it.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"EDMUND LAMBERT."

Boyton, near Heytesbury, Wiltshire,

January 23d, 1799.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT OF ANOTHER LETTER FROM MR. LAMBERT (THE WRITER OF THE LAST) TO THE PRESENT AUTHOR; DATED, ROYTON, NOVEMBER 21st 1799.

"From the number of experiments I have made, and in which I have very seldom failed, I cannot but be convinced of the utility of the Tractors.

MISS GAUNTLETT has no return of the impediment in her throat.—The last and surprising cure my set of Tractors performed, was on the Rev. Mr. THOMAS, brother to Admiral Thomas—He had a

Complaint in the left Hip, extending down to the Knee, for nineteen years. He found a great weakness whenever he walked, and on proceeding the distance of a mile, there came on a violent pain. He applied to me for the Tractors.—On using them until the next day, he returned, and said he believed he was perfectly cured. He told me that last Monday, he had walked from his house to Steeple Aston, which is fifteen miles, and back again the next day, without finding the least symptom of his old complaint. This case is wonderful, as the disease had been of so many years standing and cured so soon.

"I have taken the liberty of inclosing you a letter received from a gentleman in the public character of a Magistrate, a Commissioner of Appeal for the Income Act.

I am, Sir, with great respect and esteem,

Your obedient and obliged servant,

MR. PERKINS.

EDMUND LAMBERT."

EDWARD H. MORTIMER, ESQ. A MAGISTRATE AND COMMISSIONER OF APPEAL FOR THE INCOME ACT TO EDMUND LAMBERT, ESQ.

"Trowbridge, April 30, 1799.

"Sir,

"In consequence of your very kind and friendly letter, I immediately purchased a set of Perkins's
Metallic

Metallic Tractors, and having then my usual

Gout in my Hands, Knees, and Feet,

which parts were very much swelled, I began using them agreeably to the printed directions; and to my great astonishment in two or three days found the swelling entirely gone down.—In the course of a week, owing I imagine to a cold I had taken, I had a slight return in one hand; I instantly operated as before, and the same desired effect was produced. From that time to the present moment, thank God, I have enjoyed a better share of health than I have known for several years past. I was happy to hear you had experienced such benefit by the Metallic Tractors, and sincerely hope you have not had a return without finding them of the same service you did in the first instance.

“I should long since have communicated the good effects I have derived from this useful remedy, but waited to acquaint you if I had found any bad consequences from the use of it.

“I am, Sir, your faithful and obedient Servant,

EDWARD H. MORTIMER.”

☞ THE cases in the five last communications have a greater claim to an insertion in the present Tract, from their having been the subject of considerable enquiry. An account of them, in a very ingenious paper on the Metallic Practice, having been sent, by EDMUND LAMBERT, Esq. of Wiltshire, to his son A. B. LAMBERT, Esq. of Grosvenor-Street, London, F. R. S. Vice President of the Linnean Society, &c. &c. they were by the latter communicated to Sir JOSEPH BANKS, who considered them of so much importance, that he gave them a public reading at one of his CONVERSATIONES.

These last-mentioned cases alone, were no others adduced, ought to silence the most determined opposer

opposer of the Tractors. Will any pretend to say, that the dreadful complaint of Miss GAUNT-LETT, was cured by an action on the imagination, when she "submitted to the operation with little hope or expectation of any relief." If such astonishing cures can be effected by an operation on the mind, what excuse has the faculty for not employing it. I shall not myself say, but will leave it with the reader to entertain what idea he pleases of the nature of the crime of that man, who, from motives of *lucre*, causes the hapless sufferers, fondly and unsuspectingly trusting to his care, to draw out a miserable existence, rather than allow them to employ an innocent operation on the imagination, which would rescue them from the brink of the grave, and restore them to health.

The circumstance to which Mr. LAMBERT alludes, respecting the suggestion of some persons, that the gout may be *repelled* by the Tractors, affords an instance of the mean artifices employed to discredit them. On this subject I shall merely observe, I have never seen or heard of an instance in which harm accrued from their application in the gout. The circumstance, of the pain generally following the course of the instruments, as they are drawn towards the extremity, alone proves their *attracting* influence.

EXPERIMENTS OF MR. JOHN GRANT, OF LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDFORDSHIRE.

When Mr. GRANT possessed himself a set of the Tractors, he expressed, in his letter, a determination of giving them a fair and extensive trial among the afflicted Poor and others in his vicinity, and, whatever should be the result, of making that public. This resolution, which I would be gratified in seeing in all others, induced me, after the expiration of a few months, to write to Mr. G. soliciting to be
favour-

favoured with an account of his practice. His report, as it is believed will be the case with every person who practised with the same judgment and perseverance, was not uncreditable to the discovery. "I have great pleasure in informing you," he writes, "that, with very few exceptions, I have found them extremely efficacious, and to answer the purpose for which they are recommended. I began with noting down in a little book the cases as they occurred; but my practice with them increasing, and having other business that occupies my attention of late, I have been obliged to decline it.

"I find the Tractors equally useful on the BRUTE ANIMAL as on the HUMAN SUBJECT, and I think they are more active on the horse than on other animals."

Not long after this the Author was favoured with an inspection of the minute-book referred to; in which were registered twenty-four Cases where the Tractors had performed cures. I regret that the limits of the present tract will not admit a detail of the whole of these, as they are all important, and demonstrative of the metallic influence. We must, however, give place to a few of them.

CASE I. *Lumbago.*

"On the 9th of the ninth month, purchased a set of Metallic Tractors of B. D. PERKINS, of London, the Patentee. At that time I was severely affected with the *Lumbago*. Operated on the affected part fifteen minutes; perceived a warmth and tingling sensation follow the point of the Tractors, and was so much relieved as to be able that night to get out of bed without help, though I had been unable for the week preceding to turn myself without the most excruciating pain. In the course of the next day the pain returned, though with less violence. Continued the use of the Tractors four days, and took

took in the interval some tincture of gum guaiacum. At this instant, the 16th of ninth month, am free from the complaint."

CASE II. *A Phlegmon or Boil.*

"Ninth month, 10th.—A person had a *very bad* boil on one of the knees, extremely painful and inflamed. The Tractors were applied about fifteen minutes around the inflamed part, without much apparent effect at the time. By the morning the inflammation was gone off, and the progress towards suppuration arrested. In twenty-four hours it was well, no suppuration having taken place."

CASE III. *Erysipelas.*

"Ninth month, 11th.—A lady was troubled with an *erysipelas*, chiefly affecting her left eye. The inflammation was not attended with much tumefaction. The Tractors were applied, and relief experienced in a few minutes. About four hours after this, on repeating the same application, the inflammation was wholly removed, and the complaint subsided."

CASE IV. *Pain in the Face.*

"Ninth month, 17th.—A person had a *violent* pain in her face; was very unwilling I should apply the Tractors, but after much importuning submitted to the operation. In about twelve minutes she acknowledged herself much easier. At evening repeated the operation, and she was cured."

CASE V.—*Sting of a Wasp.*

"Ninth month, 17th.—A person was stung on her arm with a wasp. The part was inflamed, swelled, and attended with intense pain. Applied the Tractors,

tors fifteen minutes, when the pain, inflammation, and swelling, were all removed.

"Another person, stung in the same way, was relieved from every effect of the sting by one application of the Tractors."

CASE VI.—*Pain and Tumefaction from a punctured Wound.*

"EDWARD DAWSON received an injury on his knee, from an iron instrument running into it, a little below the joint, and which he supposed had penetrated into the substance of the bone. The Balsamum Traumaticum was applied immediately. However, in three or four hours from the accident, a violent pain and tumefaction of the surrounding parts ensued, for which emollient poultices were applied. The pain, notwithstanding, was violent all night. The fomentations, &c. were renewed in the morning, but his pain still continued intense. As soon as I saw him I ordered the poultices to be taken off, and, as some greasy matter had been used, I had the surrounding parts washed with warm water, and wiped clean with a linen cloth. I applied the Tractors to the seat of pain, drawing them down the tibia, and in fifteen minutes he was much relieved. I continued the application about twenty-five minutes, when he declared himself quite free from pain.

"Fearing some injury done to the ligaments near the joints, I ordered him to bed, but feeling himself to be free from pain, he lay only about two or three hours, then got up and pursued his usual business. In consequence of this, in the afternoon the pain returned with inflammation. Used the Tractors as before, and with the like good effect. He went to bed, obtained a good night's rest, and has not felt the least inconvenience since."

CASE VII.—*Violent Inflammation of the Eyes.*

"MARY DAWSON had been affected for eight or nine weeks with the most violent inflammation in the eyes I ever beheld. Many applications had been made by the faculty without any good effect. The eye-lids were very much tumefied; the white of the eye a mass of inflammation; the uvea and pupil were very dim, and the cheek so discoloured, that it resembled a ripe nectarine. I almost despair of success in this case, yet this 15th of the ninth month have made trial of the Tractors, and am pleased to observe that the first application has abated the inflammation on the cheek and eye-lids. Repeated it at intervals of six hours: every succeeding trial promises success.

"16th. A very bad night from violent pain in the eye. The external appearance much better: used the Tractors as on the preceding day. The pain during the operation shifted sometimes to her ears, face, &c. but at last, from a long application, it was wholly removed. At night they had so much abated the inflammation, that she was able to open her eyes.

"17th. The first salutation she gave me this morning was, "that she thought herself nearly well." She had experienced a good night, and was able to dress herself. On examining the eyes, there is yet to be seen considerable inflammation. Used the Tractors as before, at intervals of eight hours, continuing each application full half an hour. At evening the inflammation is very nearly removed, and she can now look on a lighted candle, though three days since was unable to open her eyes.

"18th. The inflammation has almost disappeared, and she thinks herself cured. The Tractors were never used after the 18th, and at this instant of writing she continues well. This case was under the inspection of a gentleman of the faculty, who forebore
any

any application during the use of the Tractors; so that their effects were incontrovertible."

CASE VIII.—*A Paralytic Affection.*

"PERCY KING, aged 76, was attacked with what was thought a slight paralytic affection of one side, or hemiplegia. The right arm and side were rendered almost incapable of motion. Sudorific medicines and gentle cathartics were used. Stimulating embrocations were also applied to the benumbed parts, but from all these no alteration during four days was perceived. After cleansing the parts of all the greasy substances, by washing and wiping them clean, the Tractors were applied from the shoulder to the fingers for half an hour, without the least sensible effect at the time. The same was repeated at the end of three hours, only varying the direction of the Tractors, by drawing them over the shoulder down the vertebræ. At the finishing of this operation, he complained of violent pain in the shoulder and arm. Used the Tractors at intervals of three hours, drawing them principally from the neck over the shoulder, and extending them to the ends of the fingers. The arm still continued useless, but on the third morning, while making the application, he felt a sensation of heat at his fingers ends. Every succeeding trial gave relief, and gradually restored the limb to its former strength and healthy state. At the end of three days, he was so far recovered as to be able to go out on his usual business. This man was first affected in his knee, which gradually extended over all that side till it became incapable of voluntary motion."

CASE IX.—*Erysipelatous Eruption.*

"A child of this place was affected with an *eruption in its face*, attended with violent itching and inflammation: so general about the eyes in particular,

as to close them together. I was at a loss how to apply the Tractors in this case. However I drew them as well as I could gently over the parts most affected. From the refractoriness of the child it was difficult to conduct them in any particular direction. Notwithstanding this uncertain mode of applying the Tractors, the inflammation was very much abated, and in two days it was nearly gone. The scab on the face gradually came off."

CASE X.—*Spasmodic Affections.*

"A married woman, of a very delicate habit, had for many years been subject to very alarming *spasmodic affections*, so very violent sometimes in the stomach as to threaten her immediate dissolution. During one of these violent paroxysms, the Tractors were applied to the region of the stomach, and drawn up the sternum and over the clavicle. Relief was soon experienced in the stomach, but the spasms attacked other parts of the body, as the head and arms, &c. On applying the Tractors to these parts, relief was almost instantaneously produced.

"On this patient the efficacy of the Tractors has since been experienced in a variety of nervous affections, particularly in *violent pains of the head, face, and teeth.*

"Heretofore, during the paroxysms, various anti-spasmodics, as opium with camphire, have been given in large doses. After the use of these remedies, the patient has been frequently left in a debilitated state, and confined for a week or more, before she acquired her usual strength. On the contrary, after the application of the Tractors, she did not experience any debility when the paroxysm was past, and her health was restored in a surprising manner."

CASE XI.—*Contusion.*

"JOHN STRATFORD, aged 35, received a very violent contusion, by a cart-wheel falling on his thigh. At first it was thought the bone was fractured. The parts were swelled prodigiously, so much so, that it was necessary to split his breeches in order to take them off. The inside of the knee was very much bruised and discoloured. I saw him about half an hour after the accident, before any application whatever had been made. A medical attendant present assisted me in giving the Tractors a fair trial, and we used them in concert half an hour, when the pain and swelling had very much abated. I ordered him to bed, and called on him again in the evening; he told me he had no pain, and I found the inflammation nearly gone. I used the Tractors about fifteen minutes longer, and by the next morning there was no appearance of disease remaining. He has not had the least pain since."

Mr. GRANT, in the course of his observations, takes occasion to remark, that "he does not find that the Tractors afford the least relief in *scrofulous subjects*, as he has been baffled in several instances, where he at first thought the cases were fair, but since found that want of success arose from a scrofulous habit.

"We are apt," says Mr. G. "from remarkable success in particular cases, to become too sanguine, and are led to use the practice indiscriminately, and often in cases not within the reach of human help; such injudicious applications have but too frequently brought many useful remedies into discredit and disuse. I should not be surprised if the Tractors were found to fail in the hands of many who may purchase them, from this circumstance, as well as from not duly persevering in those cases which are suitable."

Extract

Extract of a LETTER from MR. GRANT, dated 10th Month 27th Day, nearly a year after the receipt of the foregoing cases.

"I can assure thee, my zeal for the Metallic Practice is unabated, and my success therein so fully establishes their credit here, that opposition is of little avail. Facts speak for themselves, and will remain to stand the test of trial, while theoretic opinions vanish as vapours. The summer has been in general healthy, and has not afforded such a variety of complaints for the Metallic Practice as the autumn of the preceding one. The cases which have occurred have in general been rather unimportant; yet I cannot repress my inclination of giving thee one, which was the most distressing imaginable:

Bite of an Adder.

"A girl, 13 years of age, in gathering some whortle-berries in our woods, sat down on some heath. An adder coiled itself up her clothes, and stung her on the thigh. She was brought in a carriage to a surgeon in this town, who was from home, and no medical person could be procured. The case appeared a desperate one, the limb being twice its natural size, and the girl otherwise so ill, that little hope was entertained of her surviving the accident long. No other help being to be obtained, I was sent for, and conceiving it to be a case in which the metallic practice might succeed, I was determined on trying it. I procured two female attendants, whom I instructed to use the Tractors on the part. We continued applying them full two hours, when there was observed a great amendment. The swelling was entirely reduced. The limb, which, when I first saw her, she was unable to move, was now restored to its use, and the pain wholly removed. In short, so effectual was the application of the Tractors, that

that all who beheld it could not but be astonished. I particularly requested information if any return of pain was felt, which was the case the next day about 10 o'clock; but the surgeon, at whose house she was when I operated, got the start of me, and, before I came, had so daubed the parts with hot oils, that rendered any further trial of the Tractors abortive. The girl recovered.

A friend of mine has succeeded in a case of

Epileptic Fits.

"And I have further the satisfaction to inform thee, that I have letters from many of my friends, who express their great satisfaction and success in the use of the Tractors they purchased of thee.

"I am truly pleased to hear the Metallic Practice so rapidly extends. The publication of such a number of well-attested facts must be more satisfactory to all under suffering than any uncertain theoretical practices, and will consequently lead to the adoption of a remedy, found by experience to be beneficial, and, what is also extremely important, so incapable of doing harm.

"With best wishes I remain thy assured friend,

"JOHN GRANT."

I have dwelt longer on Mr. Grant's practice, as I consider his observations of more moment than those who have seen fewer experiments, and who have employed this remedy with less judgment and attention. His very humane and benevolent custom of attending both rich and poor, *gratis*, while it afforded him "the gratification of relieving a great number of his suffering fellow creatures," at the same time gave him an opportunity of making numerous and satisfactory experiments.

LETTER FROM MR. JACKSON, SURGEON, SLOANE-STREET, CHELSEA.

" Sir,

February 26th, 1799.

" About three months since I first heard of the success of your Metallic Tractors, and was strongly urged to turn my thoughts to the practice. I will candidly acknowledge that it appeared to me in as unfavourable a light as the visionary schemes of Mesmer; but in consequence of hearing that my neighbour, the Rev. Dr. TROTTER, had done considerable good by using them, I was determined, on the first proper occasion, to give a fair trial to so novel a mode. On Thursday the 17th ultimo, such an one offered. One of the long stage-coaches from Battersea was overset near Charing-cross by an axle-tree breaking, and some of the passengers were severely hurt. Among them was Mr. WINPENNY, a gentleman well known at the Stock Exchange; he was thrown by the shock to the opposite side of the carriage, and received

A severe Contusion in his Face and Eye.

" By favour of Dr. TROTTER, I was supplied with the Tractors that evening, and used them with success. The next morning, 18th, the cellular membrane about the eyes was so turgid with blood, that I determined to apply leeches in the evening; but to my pleasure, as well as surprise, on using the Tractors again, the swelling so much subsided that no other remedy was necessary.

" 19th. They were applied twice with the most decided good effect. 20th, Used them in the forenoon only; and on the succeeding day, 21st, after their application, he went into the city to business; and in two days more was quite well.

" Without entering at present into any discussion of the principle on which the Tractors act, I can truly assert my conviction, that under the best mode
my

my experience would have dictated in such a case, Mr. WINPENNY would not have been able to return to business in less than a fortnight.

Erysipelas.

" I have to add another instance of their good effects. Mrs. P. an elderly person in this place, who had been previously ill with asthma and fever, was attacked with as violent an erysipelatous inflammation all over her face as I ever saw. The heat, pain, and tension were so distressing, that I determined to use the Tractors. After applying them ten minutes she declared herself easy, and could open the eyelids, which were closed before I began. The application was persevered in, and in six times she was perfectly recovered. The only medicine used was an opening draught.

" As I am now in possession of a set of the Tractors, I shall continue in the practice, being convinced that many sufferings of humanity will be removed in a short space of time, and with the most absolute certainty of the innocence of the remedy.

" I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

" JOHN JACKSON."

EXTRACT OF ANOTHER LETTER FROM MR. JACKSON, DATED SLOANE-STREET, DECEMBER 16th, 1799.

" Sir,

" As I learn your intention of publishing another edition of your Essay on the Efficacy of the Metallic Tractors, I think it will give you some satisfaction to be assured, that, since my former communication, I am more firmly convinced of their salutary effects, from success in many instances, and particularly in my own family: The first of these was

A severe Scald

on one of my sons (a youth of 14), which extended

over the surface of his foot, a space almost as broad as the palm of a hand. On using the Tractors about half an hour the pain entirely subsided, so that it was not necessary to apply them a second time. The second Case was

A Scald in actual boiling Water,

on the whole of the right hand of my youngest daughter; the pain, tension, and inflammation were of severe, that, although possessed of great resolution, she could scarcely support the agony. Providentially I was at home, and, after using the Tractors about twenty minutes, she grew easier. I continued their application during a quarter of an hour, and nothing remained but a sense of great soreness. It is, indeed, offering no more than common justice to your invention, to say, I firmly believe, but for it, the whole hand would have been covered with blisters; and, perhaps, not cured in two or three weeks. With most sincere wishes for the extensive circulation of the Metallic Tractors,

"I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"J. JACKSON."

LETTER FROM MR. FREDERIC SMITH, CHEMIST
AND DRUGGIST, IN THE HAY-MARKET.

Since this gentleman became possessed of a set of the Tractors, which is more than a year, he has had very many opportunities of using them, having attended all patients that applied, *gratis*; and from his knowledge of the properties and operations of medicine, his report is rendered important and satisfactory.

"Hay-market, 2d 4th Month, 1779.

"Esteemed Friend,

"Having understood it was thy intention to publish some cases on the effects produced by the Metallic

Tractors

lie Tractors, I thought I could give thee an account of several experiments which are not unimportant; at the same time freely acknowledging, when I first heard of them, even from some of my particular friends, I was a sceptic, and until *ocular demonstration* proved to me their beneficial effects, I was led to conceive the whole arose from the influence of the imagination, and was nearly allied to Animal Magnetism. Perhaps the following cases (or as many of them as thou may'st apprehend it right to make use of) will not be unacceptable."

CASE I.—*Violent Pain in the Region of the Liver.*

"About the middle of the tenth month last, having just returned from the country, where I had several opportunities of seeing the Tractors made use of with great effect, I had an inclination to try them on a young man, my apprentice, who seemed rapidly going into a decline. For many weeks he had been incapable of attending to business, had a true hectic pulse, seldom less than an hundred and twenty, and as in such cases very irregular; there was a continual violent pain in the region of the liver. A physician, of skill and judgment, who attended him, prescribed the usual means to obtain relief; and among other remedies, blisters and frequent topical bleeding were had recourse to, but with little or no sensible benefit. Seeing it a desperate case, determined me to make trial of the Tractors, and to my great surprise and satisfaction, after continuing their use about a week, the pain in his side was removed, and in a short time he was so far recovered as to be able to attend to his business. He has sometimes since had returns of pain, but only in a slight degree, and which the application of the Tractors has uniformly relieved. His health is now nearly re-established, which he, as well as myself, conceive to be solely from the use of the Tractors,

"In addition to the above I may add, that a friend of mine, who had a liver complaint, attended with similar symptoms, and who purchased a set of the Tractors from thy Agent in Bath, where he had been for the benefit of the waters, without success, has from the metallic practice received so much relief that very little pain now occurs, and when it does, is removed by the application of the Tractors.

"It certainly must be a matter of much importance in cases like the above, where medicine but too frequently proves ineffectual, that even a palliative to pain, nearly amounting to a cure (and which in time may probably prove so) should be obtained with so little trouble; and that the disease itself be so far subdued as to occasion no greater inconvenience."

CASE II.—*Violent Pain in the Vicinity of the Kidney.*

"A relation of mine had in the course of the last year been afflicted with a pain in her back, which confined her to her room for some months. She was often affected so violently as not to be able to leave her bed, and for a considerable time incapable of walking without crutches. The medical person who attended her treated the complaint as a lumbago.

"The 11th month last she solicited my advice. Upon hearing her symptoms, I apprehended her case had been mistaken, and that the kidneys were the seat of the disorder, the excess of pain being only in these parts. I prevailed upon her to have the Tractors tried. On the first application she nearly fainted several times, but found relief. In two days she was able to walk up and down stairs, and by continuing their use (several times) daily for a week, all pain was removed. She has ever since been able to attend to her family concerns."

CASE III.—*Erysipelatous Eruption in the Face.*

"My daughter, a child about four years of age, had for several weeks a disagreeable eruption in her face.

face. A variety of medicines were employed both externally and internally without effect. The humour was of a very acrid nature, tending much towards an erysipelatous inflammation, a thin watery ichor exuded from under the scabs. My wife drew the Tractors lightly over the parts affected. After the first application the inflammation considerably abated, and in two days nothing but dry scabs remained, which in a very short time were removed, leaving the skin as smooth as usual. The Tractors were not used more than three times.

"I have seen them used in several cases of erysipelas, with the most decided benefit."

CASE IV.—*Violent Inflammation in the Eye.*

"A young woman had so violent an inflammation in her right eye, that she could not bear the light without experiencing excruciating pain. There appeared a film over the greatest part; the pupil completely. On the first application of the Tractors she was with difficulty kept from fainting, not on account of the pain, but from a sensation she could not describe. The operations were continued for three weeks, during which she was daily receiving benefit, and at the end of that time the inflammation subsided, and the film also was entirely removed."

CASE V.—*Rheumatism.*

"A Friend of mine, about two months since, was attacked with a very violent rheumatic pain in the back part of his head, reaching a little way down the spine, and terminating near the scapula of the left shoulder. He had a good deal of fever, and had kept the house for several days. He made use of embrocations, and took guaiacum and laudanum, which gave temporary relief, but the pain continually returned. The Tractors were then applied, which immediately gave him ease, and on continuing their use a week the complaint was removed."

CASE VI.—*Angina Maligna, or Ulcerous Sore Throat.*

"A few weeks since I found myself exceedingly ill, with symptoms of approaching fever, which in a few days terminated in a complaint, to which I have of late years been much subject, viz. an Ulcerous Sore Throat. As it had usually been a tedious disorder with me I became low spirited, which the nervous fever that then attended me rather promoted. My tongue was covered with a thick brown crust, the tonsils and fauces much inflamed. Though I had so frequently made use of the Tractors on others, the probability of their being useful to myself escaped me for several days. It however occurring at last; I tracted myself for about ten minutes, and obtained relief both from soreness and pain. In the course of the day I felt a slight return, but which on the application of the Tractors was removed in a few minutes. In two or three days I was well enough to leave the house, and attend to business.

"Some days after this my Wife, who I suspect had caught the infection from me, was attacked in the same manner, but the timely application of the Tractors prevented the disorder from proceeding to any great height, and she was favoured to recover much sooner than I had ever known any to have done in a similar complaint."

CASE VII.—*Total Numbness in one of the Extremities.*

"A young man, about six weeks since, called on me, to request I would recommend something that might relieve him from a serious and alarming complaint, with which he had for some time been affected, viz. a Numbness and entire want of feeling in the right arm, from the shoulder to the fingers ends. The arm and hand had a livid appearance, and from some cuts he had on the fingers which could not be healed, there evinced an obstruction in the circulation. After I had used the Tractors for a few minutes,

minutes, he exclaimed with much satisfaction, "that his feeling began to return, and that he felt the points of the instruments very sensibly!" In a few minutes more, he said "he perceived a warmth and a glow in his hand and arm;" and we observed, an evident change from a livid to a healthy appearance. He was traſtored about half an hour. In the evening of the ſame day, the operation was again performed, and with ſo much ſucceſs, that he ſaid his arm was as well as ever. I have ſeen him ſeveral times ſince, and he has repeatedly told me that he has experienced no return of the complaint."

"In addition to the above Caſes, I can inform thee, I have found the Traſtors of ſingular uſe in my own young family, who have been bruſed by falls, or running againſt the corner of tables, &c. I have been much entertained in minutely *obſerving the inflammation, tumefaction, and blackneſs* gradually diſappear, and this in a variety of inſtances.

"If the Traſtors were of no other uſe, I ſhould be perfectly ſatiſfied in having purchaſed them for theſe purpoſes alone.

"I have uſed them in ſeveral caſes of pain in the head and teeth, but in theſe I have been ſometimes unſucceſsful, which, I ſuppoſe, muſt be accounted for, from the circumſtance that pains in and about the head are ſo often ſymptomatic, and ariſe from aſſections in other parts of the body.

"Thou may, if thou thinkeſt proper, refer thoſe who wiſh to obtain information on the ſubject to me. I remain with eſteem, thy aſſured friend,

"FREDERIC SMITH."

COPY OF ANOTHER LETTER FROM MR. SMITH,
DATED 5th 12th MONTH 1799.

Eſteemed Friend,

"Underſtanding thou haſt an intention of making ſome additions to the Caſes already publiſhed, if thou

apprehend the following worthy thy notice, thou art at liberty to make use of them : being so thoroughly satisfied of the superior effects of the Tractors, I am again desirous of bearing my testimony in their favour."

CASE I.—*St. Vitus's Dance.*

"A child about eight years of age, had for some time been afflicted with this complaint, when in the fall of 1798, the symptoms increased to an alarming degree ; besides the usual agitations, the appetite failed ; she was languid, impatient, inconstant to all employments, and restless during the night. She had the advantage of medical advice, with change of air and objects, but all without effect. The father of the child inclined to try the efficacy of the Tractors, yet with little expectation of benefit. He remarked, that she complained of an excessive pain in the head, and a continual uneasiness on the left side. They were therefore drawn over the forehead alternately ; in the short space of five minutes, she with great vivacity exclaimed that the head-ach was gone.

"They were next used on the side about ten minutes, during which a suffusion was observed to spread over the whole side — The same process was repeated the following night, when every symptom disappeared, and the child has been able to resume her pursuits without inconvenience. It was not the least remarkable incident that the disorder had induced a perpetual *unpleasant breath*, of which the second application of the Tractors effected an entire improvement, and so has ever since continued. — More than a year has now elapsed since the cure was performed, and as the child is liable on catching cold to a recurrence of the same symptoms, the Tractors have hitherto been employed with uniform certainty to remove them."

CASE II.—*Bilious Irritability.*

"A delicate woman had the Bilious Cholic to so violent a degree as to produce the most alarming spasmodic affections. The Sternum, or breast bone, was so much contracted, as, that it appeared nearly united to the spine; the hands and feet were also dreadfully affected, and the contractions in the face, but especially the mouth, gave serious apprehensions of an approaching Trismus, or *locked jaw*. Though I had a very high opinion of the Tractors, yet I confess I was not so thoroughly convinced of their efficacy, as at once to make use of them, without first trying some other means, accordingly a variety of embrocations, with friction, &c. &c. were applied, but all without any beneficial effect. A young woman and myself now operated with the Tractors; she applied one on the hands of the patient, and at the same time I used the other on the face, with almost *instant* relief; they were then applied to the stomach, where, in a very few minutes, they proved equally effectual. The whole time employed in this cure did not amount to ten minutes; she had a slight return afterwards in the stomach, which was immediately relieved by the Tractors."

CASE III.—*Inflammation and Swelling on the Leg.*

"A person lately recovered from a fever, observed a degree of inflammation on the calf of the leg, which produced much pain and swelling on the part; it gradually increased to the size of a pullet's egg; it was not till other remedies were tried, without the desired effect, that the Tractors were made use of, and by one application for about forty minutes, the *inflammation, pain, and swelling* were entirely subdued, and a cure obtained."

CASE IV.—*Spasm in the Oesophagus.*

"Whilst I was in the county of Bucks about four months since, I was informed of a poor woman who

had lain several weeks in a very trying state; she was represented to me as then starving to death; I found her as described; she was wasted, comparatively speaking, to a mere shadow;—had lost her voice, and it was with difficulty she could even whisper. The medical person who had attended her, apprehended that a skin was nearly grown over the Oesophagus so as to hinder food from getting into the stomach, and yet as in the course of every day her mouth was occasionally moistened with some liquid in a tea-spoon, and according to her description “a small portion got down behind her ears,” but occasioning an excessive pain and uneasiness, it is certain that some nourishment got into the stomach; her tongue was dry and hard, of a deep red colour, and nature seemed so completely exhausted, that no appetite or desire for food remained. I, however, ventured to apply the Tractors, which having done for about a quarter of an hour, I desired her to take a tea spoonful of wine and water, and then another, both which she swallowed without any difficulty or pain! She then tried a larger spoonful, which she was enabled to swallow! I used the Tractors for about half an hour more; in the course of the evening she took half a basin of warm milk, diluted with a small quantity of water. I continued the application for three days, the time I remained at the place, during which she took as much food, without difficulty, as she was inclined, or her stomach could bear; and though she appeared so far reduced that I had no apprehension a recovery could take place, being above sixty years of age, yet it was convincing to me that had they been used at the commencement of her illness, her life in all probability would have been saved. It was, however a gratification beyond my description to observe the extraordinary effect it had upon the poor woman; she seemed to be overwhelmed with surprise and gratitude, as were two of her daughters, who by their tears alone silently expressed their feelings.”

“I shall

"I shall now take the liberty of making an observation or two on the subject of this practice. Having in a variety of instances seen its decided usefulness, I was led to make trial of common pieces of metal, shaped nearly as the Tractors, and I acknowledge they seemed to have some effect, but I do not recollect an instance, where it was not necessary to apply the Tractors, in order to perform a cure. I shall mention one comparative instance of their influence. A young woman had by a fall *bruised her elbow in a violent manner*. It swelled, the pain was excruciating, and she could get no rest; a considerable degree of fever attended; the usual remedies had been tried previous to our seeing her, but without effect. The Tractors were applied; at first the pain, whilst using them, seemed more * than she could well bear, and, indeed, though it was continued for a considerable time, we did not then perceive much advantage, which might have been prevented by the pain being so exquisite as to cause violent perspiration; the next day she informed us she had slept considerably better; and on twice more using the Tractors, a cure was performed. In a few days she came again and informed us she had met with another accident, and had *bruised her elbow* more violently than before. This was thought a fair opportunity of making trial with the pieces of metal (brass and iron.) They were accordingly drawn gently over the part, but without seeming to cause any sensation; the Tractors were then applied, which immediately produced an excess of pain and agony; the other metals were now alternately made use of, and with exactly the same effect as before, which fully establishing in our minds the difference of the influence of different metals on the human body. The Tractors

* An increase of pain during the application is a certain sign that a cure is about to be effected. B. D. P.

tors were continued; the consequence was, a cure in a few days. The circumstance of different metals having been applied could have no influence on the young woman's mind, as she was totally ignorant of the experiment being made.

"It is to be lamented that among men of science, there should be found those who oppose the Metallic Practice, without fairly and impartially investigating its merit. Opposition without substantial reason, can in no respect do away the fact of their real usefulness, and therefore till something more persuasive than mere argument and superficial declamation is produced, myself with many others must rest satisfied with such ocular demonstration as experience alone is able to furnish us with. I perceive much depends on the mode of using the Tractors, as well as persevering in their use; it requires in many instances a considerable portion of patience, an ingredient that but too few of us are overstocked with: I am inclined to think they might be usefully employed for *Chilblains*, as in the only two cases that have come under my notice this year, they have proved successful.

"Thy sincere friend,

"FREDERICK SMITH."

COMMUNICATION FROM MR. DAVID OGILVY,
JUN. BOOKSELLER, HOLBORN, LONDON.

"Sir,

London, August 2, 1798.

"Agreeably to my promise when I purchased a set of your Tractors, I shall do myself the pleasure of communicating to you the result of my experiments. The curiosity naturally excited by a remedy so novel, and, as one might infer from your late publication, so interesting to humanity, has led me to place myself, as much as possible, in the way of procuring proper subjects for the Tractors, and of noting with attention

tion their effects; that I might thereby have an opportunity of convincing myself of the truth or fallacy of the doctrine from my own experience. The ultimate success of these trials, I take great pleasure in declaring, has exceeded my expectations.

Gouty Head-ache.

"The first experiment I made with the Tractors was on my Mother, for a very *violent pain in the head*, and the case proved suitable for the Metallic Influence. It may be proper to observe, that this pain was the remains of *gouty affections*, with which she had been troubled for several years. By the advice of her physician she had recourse to the Bath waters, about three years since; soon after her return, the disease, which before at times affected her whole body, became stationary in her head. I can only say, that upon applying the Tractors agreeable to your directions, when she was in violent pain, her head-ach, which had afflicted her very severely and almost incessantly for upwards of two years, was in about ten minutes completely relieved. The application has been once repeated, and however extraordinary the fact, she has never experienced the pain since. It is now about four months since the application."

Contusion.

"I have lately had occasion to use them in a case of a *Bruise*, which afforded me much satisfaction. My infant child by accident fell against the edge of a chair, and received a very *severe blow in the forehead*. The child appearing in great pain, I applied the Tractors as soon as possible, before the part had swelled to the extent that it doubtless would, if left to itself: she very soon stopped crying, and the swelling and inflammation in a few minutes were hardly perceptible, and nothing remained of the wound but a small scar."

Swelling

Swelling in the Face, and Bite of a Gnat.

" I have twice had occasion to use the Tractors on myself, once for a *swelling in the face accompanied with pain*, and once for the *bite of a gnat*. My face, in consequence of a cold a short time since, became very much swelled, and in considerable pain; a single application removed the pain and swelling. The bite from a gnat was in two places, the one above, and the other just below the lid of one of my eyes; the parts became very soon so much swelled as to completely close the eye, and on using the Tractors a few minutes the pain was removed, and the swelling subsided soon after."

" I have applied the Tractors with equal success in many other cases, once for a *rheumatic gout*; for *common head-achs*, &c.; but it would be tedious to detail every case, and indeed they do not all now occur to my mind.

" You will not infer from the above statement, that I have invariably succeeded in all my experiments; probably from not paying sufficient attention to the directions accompanying the Tractors, which point out the diseases subject to the metallic influence, I have often, no doubt, applied them improperly. And here give me leave to observe, that you ought to spare no pains in instructing your purchasers in the mode of using the Tractors, as well as to discriminate between the diseases subject to their influence, and those that are not; otherwise this practice, like every other, when injudiciously used, may lose credit unjustly. Wishing you success in your practice, which the discovery undoubtedly merits,

" I remain, Sir,

" Your most obedient servant,

" DAVID OGILVY, jun."

In addition to the above communication, Mr. OGILVY has since favoured the Author with the following.

"Dear Sir,

London, April 1st, 1799.

"If any further attestation from me respecting the efficacy of the Metallic Tractors, than that I sent to you last summer, would be acceptable, you are at liberty to state in your intended publication, that I have continued using them, and with similar success. As I have always been ready to operate *gratis* on all who applied, you may suppose that I have not wanted opportunities for seeing their effects very often.

"To detail every case would fill up a moderate volume, and as you probably have numerous communications from all parts of England, a lengthy letter from me would be uninteresting. I cannot but still be of the same opinion, respecting the necessity of your purchasers having a strict adherence to your directions for using the Tractors, and particularly to what is said on the presence of *oily, greasy substances, perspiration, &c.* The influence of these, in resisting the action of the Tractors, I have often had occasion to notice, and am persuaded that very many cases must occur, where success is prevented from these causes. Those who are in the habit of using your Tractors, cannot be too attentive to these circumstances."

Contraction of the Hand.

"I must state one cure, which you may add your pleasure about inserting in your book. My mother, in addition to the complaint in her head (which however yet continues well) as stated in my former letter, about two years since received a wound in the palm of her hand, by falling on a broken glass bottle, which parted an artery. When this wound healed her fingers became so contracted, that she could scarcely make any use of them. At times there was
much

much pain in that part of the hand where the wound had been. The idea struck me, that the Tractors might be of benefit in removing the contraction, by drawing them from the back and palm of the hand to the extremities of the fingers. I made the experiment, and the stricture gradually gave way, and in a few minutes she could use that hand as well as the other. Since that application, which is now several months, the contraction has three or four times returned, but on using the Tractors it has always been removed in the course of five or six minutes.

"Not having observed, among the experiments you have published, many trials of the Tractors in contractions, I have been more particular in singling out this case, from the numerous others in which I have employed them with equal success.

"Your most obedient and

"humble servant,

"DAVID OGILVY, jun."

COMMUNICATION FROM MR. JAMES MATTHEWS,
BOOKSELLER, STRAND.

"Sir,

"Hearing of your intention to publish some cases relative to the use of your Metallic Tractors, in the removal and cure of several diseases, I conceive it a duty I owe to you and the public at large to bear my testimony in their favour. Since I have been in possession of a set of them, I have applied them in several cases of the head-ach, rheumatism in the face and elsewhere, and inflammations in the eyes, with complete success.

Rheumatic Tooth-ach.

"A lady who had been in extreme agony seven days from a rheumatic tooth-ach, was relieved in ten minutes by application of the Tractors. The
soreness

foreness which she felt in her cheek was also removed in a few hours after."

Inflammation in the Eyes.

"A gentleman, who had a swelled face and great inflammation in his eye, permitted me to apply the Tractors. In about eight or ten minutes the tumefaction in the face subsided, and the eye was relieved from weakness and pain. The blood-vessels, which were turgid and distended, gradually discharged themselves, and in the course of the next day the inflammation wholly disappeared."

Chronic Pain from a Sprain.

"A gentleman, from some exertion in his garden, about Midsummer last, sprained his shoulder, since which he has not been able to raise his fore arm higher than an horizontal position from his elbow. He was not able of course to put on his cravat or coat, and, if he attempted to lift up his arm, it was always attended with extreme pain, even so as to make him cry out. His wife, hearing that I was in possession of the Tractors, desired that I would perform an operation upon him. Happy in an opportunity to try their effects in such a peculiar case, I called on him for that purpose, on Wednesday evening, Nov. 14th. My first precaution was to have his arm, from his shoulder to the extremities, of his fingers, washed with warm soap and water, to cleanse it from the greasy and oily substances which were present, and I likewise took care that my own hand, as an operator, should be free from those substances also, which I find to be necessary in all cases where the Tractors are applied. I then proceeded to draw the points of the Tractors alternately (using each about three minutes) from the shoulder to the extremities of the fingers, and in less than ten minutes he found the arm much relieved from pain,
and

and on continuing their use half an hour, I had the gratification of seeing him put on his cravat and coat without assistance, which he had not done for four or five months before. The next morning he lifted a heavy chair with the same arm, and carried it from one side of the room to the other, and that without pain, to his very great astonishment. A gentleman, who was present during the operation, knowing how long he had been troubled with this complaint, was so convinced of the utility of the Tractors, that he afterwards purchased a set of them to take into the country with him, from a philanthropic spirit to do good to the afflicted in his vicinity."

Scalds.

"My Wife has been twice scalded. The first time with hot tallow on both her wrists; and upon the immediate application of the Tractors, after the removal of the grease, the inflammation ceased, and the apparent progress of vesication was arrested. The second was occasioned by boiling coffee. The Tractors were applied, and the same effect, as in the case above, took place."

A Contusion.

"Another case occurred in my own family. A boy in beating books was accidentally struck by one of my men, who was beating with him, with a hammer of nearly fourteen pounds weight, upon the upper part of his eye-lid, which produced a wound three-fourths of an inch in length. Having blotting paper at hand, I immediately soaked up the blood with it, and applied the Tractors. The tumefaction was prevented from taking place, which was very surprising after so severe a blow. I applied a rag with a little Balsam only, and used the Tractors once more. In three days his eye was perfectly well, there remaining only a small scab and a little blackness below the eye.

"These,

" These, with several other similar facts which I have witnessed, fully establish the virtue of the Tractors in my estimation; and should they fail in any instance of producing the desired effect, I believe it is because the case is not of the description for which they are recommended, that they are improperly used, or not applied as frequently as is necessary. Wishing you success in your endeavours to promote the public welfare, by bringing this important discovery to England,

" I am, Sir,

" Your most obedient servant,

" JAMES MATTHEWS."

Strand, No. 18,
January 8th, 1799.

The LETTER, of which the following is an Extract, comes from a Gentleman much attached to philosophical Investigation;—

MR. TEED, OF LANCASTER-COURT, STRAND,
LONDON.

" SIR,

" In England, which has long boasted its great and enlightened men, there prevails as much prejudice and scepticism on any innovation which opposes former opinions, as in countries where science and philosophy have made less progress. When LUNARDI gave out, a few years since, in the public papers, that he would certainly ascend into the air by means of a balloon, many sensible men thought it impossible, and ridiculed those who entertained a different opinion. You will not therefore be surprised that persons of this class should, in the year 1799, equally disbelieve and ridicule your Father's discovery, and even declare the practice an imposition on the public.

" With a view to inform such characters, and to
the

the relief of my suffering fellow mortals, I submit to you, for insertion in your next publication, the following cases:

Sprain.

"About a fortnight since, a person in my family sprained her foot. It swelled, grew black, and was very painful. I applied the Tractors, which I purchased of you; the pain was removed. I repeated the operation that evening and the next morning, when she was every way much better, and by the evening of that day well."

Tooth-ach.

"My servant had a bad Tooth-ach, which proceeded from a rotten or carious tooth. I directed my little daughter to apply the Tractors, and relief was given in a very few minutes. As the tooth was much decayed, the pain has many times since returned, but has always been relieved by the application of the Tractors.

"The above are some of the cases which have come under my own inspection. There is an old and vulgar maxim, that "seeing is believing, but feeling is the naked truth." On the day of the last illumination for NELSON'S brilliant victory over the French fleet, I was very suddenly affected with a violent pain in the small of my back, or what is commonly called the

Lumbago;

It came on in the afternoon, and I was so ill as to be obliged to lay on the bed until five o'clock. I could not walk across the room, or stand upright without very great pain. The Tractors were applied, and in less than ten minutes, though however extraordinary it may appear, I was relieved, and could walk about as well as ever. I do not say I was completely cured by that one operation, for there was some pain the
next

next day, but by no means so violent, and in a few days, by constant use of the Tractors, it entirely left me.

" If it will at all contribute towards establishing a doctrine, entirely new in the researches of this country, you are at liberty to make use of the name of

" Your humble servant,

" RICHARD TEED."

Lancaster-Court, Strand,
13th October, 1798."

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REV. DR. TROTTER, OF HANS-PLACE, KNIGHTSBRIDGE.

Hans-place, March 29, 1799.

" Dear Sir,

" In answer to your question, " What is now my opinion of the Metallic Tractors?" I can with confidence say, that after six months candid trial, I am equally astonished and pleased. The instruments and the operation are so simple that they promise nothing, but the effect is so remarkable and generally so sudden, that it seems more like a miracle than the usual course of nature, though till of late undiscovered. When I first perused your late Publication, giving an account of your father's cures by his Metallic Tractors, attested by well-known respectable characters in America, as a friend to humanity I called upon you, to make further enquiry about a discovery that promised to be so useful to mankind. Your goodness in conducting me to St. Martin's work-house, gave me an opportunity of satisfying myself of the efficacy of the Tractors, in the cure of two women, both of whom declared in my hearing, with apparent pleasure and gratitude, that they were by these relieved of their complaints; one of a *painful acute rheumatism in the ankle*, and the other of a *gouty affection*

affection, attended with a contraction in the hand and fingers.*

" Soon after this I was possessed of a set of the Tractors, and resolved to omit no occasion of using them for the relief of the afflicted. On looking at my minute-book, I find a particular account of TWENTY-ONE cures performed under my own inspection; *viz.* four of the rheumatism; two of inflamed eyes and head ache; one erysipelas; five of the tooth-ache; three of swelling in the mouth; three of inflamed swelling in the face; one of an uncommon pain in the head of a young woman subject to the epilepsy, and which was the usual symptom of an approaching fit; one of the strangury, and one of a sore throat. The particulars I will readily communicate to any enquirer.

" Upon the whole, I must in justice to (what I shall call) Dr. PERKINS'S INVALUABLE Discovery, acknowledge, that I myself have never applied the Tractors without some sensible effect, and that in a few minutes; and from my own experience can say, that metals do not more certainly attract the electrical fluid, than the Metallic Tractors (if properly used) act in attracting and removing certain pains, inflammations, and inflammatory swellings. I have no doubt of their making their way in a short time over Britain, as they have done in America, and are now doing in Denmark and Germany. So safe, so pleasant, so ready, and, I will add, so cheap a medical assistant, few ladies or gentlemen will choose to be without in their families. Believe I am, with esteem,

" Dear Sir,

" Your very humble servant,

" JOHN TROTTER."

" P. S. Since writing the above, I have operated on a gentleman's left eye-brow, which was painful and

* See these cases in pages 56 and 58 of this book.

and a little swelled, though without inflammation. I drew the Tractors over it in different directions, for the space of half an hour, without the least sensible effect. Upon enquiry I found the disorder to proceed from the stomach. Hence it may be inferred, that no relief can be expected from the Tractors when the complaint is merely symptomatical; but when it is topical, a cure, from what I have witnessed, may be depended upon. J. T."

ANOTHER LETTER FROM THE REV. DR. TROTTER.

"Dear Sir, *Hans Place, December 3, 1799.*

"Since my letter to you of the 29th of March last, I have operated in EIGHTY DIFFERENT CASES, among my friends and acquaintances, with the Metallic Tractors, and, I have the pleasure to inform you, with the desired effect. In that number I have not included those on whom I have operated merely at the importunity of suffering patients, whose cases were not proper subjects for the Tractors.

"I am more and more convinced of the importance of this discovery to mankind, and cannot help pitying those who, either through ignorance or prejudice, attempt to depreciate its merit. A little time will shew their mistake, and put a stop to groundless aspersions. I have not at present leisure to send you a particular account of all the above cases; indeed, the great number you have probably received from others, may render this unnecessary. One or two, however, I will adduce.

CASE I. *Erysipulous.*

"A lady was afflicted with an erysipelous in her face. The inflammation and swelling were so great, that one of her eyes was closed, and she complained of great pain. After being operated on for ten mi-

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minutes,

minutes, the swelling and inflammation were abated, and the face came to its natural colour, and which was so evident as to be voluntarily remarked by one of the family present. In a few minutes more the gentlewoman cheerfully acknowledged that she was quite well."

CASE II. *Gout.*

"A man in business, aged 37, had for several years been subject to the gout. Calling one day at his shop, I observed him very lame, and, to appearance, in great pain. He said he had got a return of his old companion the gout. I promised to call again, which I did, in two hours, and found him in bed, and very much distressed with the disease in one of his feet. After I had operated on it with the Tractors fifteen minutes, he said the pain was entirely gone, while, at the same time, I observed the inflammation and swelling subside. He has had no return of his complaint these five months."

CASE III. *Rheumatism.*

"An elderly woman, for two years, had been so lame with the rheumatism, that she could only, with difficulty, walk by the help of a crutch-headed stick. After applying the Tractors to the part affected, half an hour, she declared she was quite free of all complaints, and walked out of the room without any assistance. A few days after she walked six miles without her stick.

"It may be proper to observe, that this woman, among various other remedies, had made trial of the Acroamatic Belt *, under the direction of its inventor,

* For the information of those who are in the habit of hearing, from a *certain class*, that the Tractors cure through an operation upon the imagination,

tor, from which she never at any time perceived the least effect."

CASE IV. *Burn.*

"A lady burned her hand. I happily called at the house immediately after the accident, and applied the Tractors. In about ten minutes the inflammation disappeared, the vesication was prevented, and she said the pain was gone.

"After such proofs of the efficacy of the Metallic Tractors, I must believe them to be most useful instruments, and which, I think, no gentleman in town or country should be without. They seem in a particular manner to be a proper *vade mecum* for clergymen; who while administering spiritual counsel to the afflicted under their charge, must have a pleasing and useful employment in relieving them from a painful bodily disorder, especially when they may be assured, at the same time, they are in no danger of doing any harm by the remedy.

"Wishing you health and prosperity,

"I am, dear Sir, your very humble servant,

"JOHN TROTTER."

"P. S. The young woman mentioned in my former letter has had no return of the epileptic fits."

tion, it should be remarked, that, if such salutary effects are to be procured from its influence, the BELT here spoken of, from the peculiar circumstances attending its application, is, above all other remedies, most eminently calculated for that purpose, and yet we see it produced no effect; but the *disgusting* and *simple appearing* Tractors gave the relief immediately.

B. D. P.

*Letter from the R. v. WILLIAM MOSELEY, of LONG
BUCKLY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE; dated*

"November 29th, 1799.

BURN, HEAD-ACH, TOOTH-ACH, AND
INFLAMMATIONS.

"Dear Sir,

"I cheerfully communicate the *experience* and *ocular demonstration* I have had of the utility of the Metallic Practice. When first in company with a possessor of the Tractors, I acknowledge I treated them with the contempt usually bestowed upon what was popular a few years since, under the name of Animal Magnetism. However, on this friend's putting them into my hands, I was determined to make full trial of their supposed powers. An opportunity soon offered. Mrs. MOSELEY's dress caught fire. Before I could afford her any assistance, the blaze nearly encompassed her body and head. In endeavouring to arrest the progress of the flames, I burnt one of my hands in two places. The inflammation was great, and the pain most excruciating. A blister formed on my fore-finger, and there was every prospect of a bad result.

"The Tractors being in my possession for experiment, I made trial of their efficacy. The result was beyond what I ever expected to witness. In half an hour the whole of the inflammation was removed, and, what was to me very astonishing, the blister totally disappeared; a vestige of it was not left. Thus, in thirty minutes, my hand was restored to the same state it was in before the accident.

"This circumstance, had I no other evidence, was enough to remove my scepticism, and convince me of their attractive powers; but in several other cases since, I have been equally astonished and pleased.

"The *bad-ach* I have removed several times, and in a way, on some occasions, that affords the most decided evidence of their influence. A person hav-
ing

ing been long troubled with that complaint, I drew the Tractors over one eye, in a direction towards the back of the head, and in a short time it was removed, but still remained over the other eye. I then drew them in the same direction over that, and in about the same space it totally ceased. This experiment has raised the practice higher in my esteem than the former had done before. The *tooth-ach* and *inflammations* I have also removed.

"On the whole, I am now willing to confess that I think this discovery of the first importance to mankind, and would not, for the benefit of my own family, and the luxury of contributing to the ease of others, be without a set of the Tractors for hardly any consideration.

"I am, with respect, yours, &c.

"WILLIAM MOSELEY."

EXPERIMENTS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

The Author has been invited by the overseers of the poor, church-wardens, physicians, &c. to use the Tractors on the sick in several of the poor-houses and hospitals in London. These invitations, from his well-known desire of submitting the merits of the Metallic Practice to the test of fair experiment, in the presence of competent and impartial judges, it will be conceived, were always readily complied with. The first visit was made to

THE POOR-HOUSE OF THE PARISH OF ST. PANCRA5,

the result of which cannot be better conveyed than by inserting the following official statement:

*Copy of the Report of the Rev. WARING WILLET,
A. M. Domestic Chaplain to the Right Hon. the Earl
of Dunmore, Rector of the Parishes of Lisbon and Stan-*

ford le Hope, in the County of Essex, and Minor Canon of St. Peter, Westminster; and NEHEMIAH SPICER, Esq. Overseer of the Infirmary or Poor-house, in the Parish of St. Pancras, Middlesex.

“ Delancey Place, Hampstead Road,

May 17, 1798.

“ Being desirous of obtaining ocular proof of the efficacy of Mr. PERKINS'S Tractors, we some time since requested him to accompany us, and some other gentlemen, for that purpose, to the poor-house of the parish of St. Pancras, where were a number of persons afflicted with various diseases. The Tractors were applied in our presence with success, upon a soldier who had the

Gout

in both his feet. The severe pain and inflammation were removed in a few minutes.

“ Among others who found relief, the case of Mrs. LANFESTER, who had been confined in this poor-house with the

Rheumatism

for several months, deserves particular notice. For some weeks previous to the application of the Tractors, she had not been able, in consequence of debility, occasioned by the extreme pain in her limbs, to bear her weight on her feet. Her arms were so affected that she could not raise them sufficiently high to feed herself, the nurse being obliged to assist her in putting her food to her mouth. The knee and elbow joints were much tumefied and inflamed, and from her extremely emaciated state it was believed she could not long survive. In this helpless and distressing situation Mr. PERKINS applied the Tractors to her right arm, which then appeared to be in most pain, and in about ten minutes the pains in that arm were wholly removed, and immediately she raised it over her head, and could move it with perfect ease

ease in any direction. As the experiment was only performed on one arm, and the complaint extended to the legs, as well as to the other arm, the pain, in about twenty-four hours, returned. The Tractors being then purchased by the second of the under-mentioned, he visited the poor-house, and applied them himself to her knees and arms. After four or five applications daily, she so far recovered as to be enabled to walk down stairs, and into the adjoining yard. She continued gaining strength, and is now restored to health, and discharged from the house as cured.

"Mr. SPICER has used his Tractors successfully in other cases since he possessed them. Among these, a person of his own family, who has been subject to the

Rheumatism

for years, had, a few weeks since, a severe attack in the ankle and foot. The parts were much swelled, inflamed, and in extreme pain, so that the foot could not be placed on the floor. The Tractors were used several times during the day, and the pain and inflammation were wholly removed, so that the person could walk with ease. In the ordinary attacks of this disease, it has usually continued several days.

(Signed)

"WARING WILLET.

"NEHEMIAH SPICER."

Here the reader has had occasion to notice, what he has seen in the "Preliminary Observations," the necessity of frequently repeating the applications, especially on subjects so long and dreadfully afflicted as Mrs. LANESTER. Had not Mr. SPICER's humanity and judgment led him to renew the operations on that poor woman, when she had a recurrence of pain, the benefit from the first trial would not have been permanent, and the termination of the com-

plaint would doubtless have been fatal to the patient. Discredit is but too frequently brought on the Metallic Practice, by neglecting to pay proper attention to this point.

Since the date of the above report, Mr. SPICER, from having the Tractors in his possession, has employed them with success in numerous other instances.

EXPERIMENTS IN THE POOR-HOUSE OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARTIN'S.

Subsequent to the last-mentioned experiments, I received an invitation from some of the overseers of the poor in St. Martin's parish, to use the Tractors on the sick in their poor-house, which was also readily complied with. This being situated near my place of residence, I have been enabled to give more frequent attendance, and see that the applications were fairly and properly made.

About the 1st of August, accompanied by some medical friends, I first visited that house. In ward No. 23, we were presented with the following Case, the previous history of which shall be given, as related to me by Mr. PHIPPIN, the apothecary to the house, and by the patient herself.

CASE I. *Gouty Affections.*

MARY SCOTT, aged 51, had for about twelve weeks been afflicted with what Mr. PHIPPIN called *gouty affections*. She was first attacked with a severe pain in the left elbow. The parts soon became much inflamed and swelled, and which continued to extend until the whole hand was tamedified. Several medicines were administered, after which the complaint attacked the right knee and foot, both of which swelled, and became also very painful. At length it returned to its first seat in the elbow, and gradually

ally settled in the hand and fingers. When I saw her, the fingers were so contracted, that she was unable to straighten them, or indeed to use them at all. There was much inflammation, and considerable pain. No medicines had been given for six weeks.

I had no hesitation in promising a cure, and began by drawing the Tractors over the hand, extending them along to the ends of the fingers for about twenty minutes, when she said the pain was much relieved, and that she could move the fingers easier. The inflammation was evidently much subsided. A glow of perspiration, which often takes place on the parts where the Tractors are applied, moistened the whole hand.

The Tractors were left with her that night, with orders to be used three times before the middle of the next day. On visiting her at that time, I found that she had applied them as directed, and that her pains were entirely removed; the inflammation was nearly subsided, and the middle finger, which before the application of the Tractors was most affected, was now so much better that she could contract and open it without any pain. I ordered her to continue using the Tractors three times in a day. At the end of five days she was so far restored as to take her place in the needle-room, which she had been obliged to vacate for twelve weeks, not having been able to hold the cloth with this hand while she used the needle with the right. She has ever since been able to sew and use that hand with perfect ease, having had no symptoms of the complaint in any part of the body, and enjoying her health in every respect. This patient has lived in the poor-house upwards of two years, is a person of a very good understanding, and is distinguished as an industrious woman.

CASE II.—*Acute Rheumatism.*

A few days after the experiments above mentioned, accompanied by the Rev. Dr. CLARKE *, secretary for the library and chaplain to his Royal Highness the Prince of WALES, I went to the Poor House again, with a view of meeting with more subjects for experiment.

In ward No. 20, we were presented with the case of JUDITH SYMPSON, aged about 50, a mantua-maker. This woman has been in this house five years. About four weeks before we visited her she was attacked with an acute pain in her left ankle, which soon began to swell and inflame. These continued to increase until the time we saw her, when she was unable to bear any weight on that foot. The whole external ankle and foot were enlarged to nearly twice their ordinary size. The inflammation and pain were very severe, which were evinced by the turgid state of the vessels.

I did not hesitate to promise speedy relief to this poor woman, and began by drawing the Tractors, from about three inches above the complaint, lightly over the inflamed part, and conducting them to the toes. In about five minutes a profuse perspiration seemed to burst from every pore in the foot, so that the water actually trickled along after the points of the Tractors, and if not wiped away would have dropped on the floor. After effectually removing the perspirable matter with a cloth, the points of the Tractors were conducted over the parts for a few minutes as before, and the same flow of perspiration followed. A similar effect took place a third time,
after

* Author of that very able and eloquent Defence of the Union, entitled, "*The Political, Commercial, and Civil State of Ireland.*"

after, when she declared she was perfectly relieved. She then put her foot on the floor, and could bear her weight on it with but very little inconvenience.

I ordered her to use the Tractors three times before twelve o'clock the next day. On visiting her at that time, I found the swelling reduced at least two-thirds. The inflammation was hardly perceptible, and the patient had been walking about the room. The perspiration, though in a less degree, had taken place on each application. This, it is proper to observe, was not at any time produced on other parts of the body, but was an action of the Tractors on the diseased part alone. She continued using them three times a day, and in about a week was perfectly cured. Since that time, which is now more than nine months, this woman has never had the least symptom of the rheumatism in any part of her body, and has enjoyed perfect health.

Having shewn the above to the Rev. Dr. CLARKE, with a request that he would inform me whether my statement of the effects produced by the first application, agreed with the facts according to his recollection, I was obliged with the following reply :

“ Sir,

“ I have been favoured with your note, and can feel no backwardness in complying with what I conceive to be but justice to you, and duty toward the public.

“ Having observed, in the course of my reading, that some discoveries had been made by different men in different quarters of the globe, and all tending to one point, I was happy in an opportunity of personally enquiring into what now begins to be termed by writers of great eminence abroad, *a new discovered law of nature*. I was also anxious to learn, how far the application of this discovery might really tend to diminish the catalogue of human suffer-

ings. When I did myself the pleasure of waiting on you for this purpose, you frankly accompanied me to the Poor House of St. Martin's. Not then aware that I might be called on to testify the experiment which you made in my presence, I did not take notes of it; but as far as I can charge my memory with the fact, which was an impressive one, it was as follows :

" A woman, whose ankle was extremely swelled, and who long complained of severe pain, submitted to the operation with the Tractors. On their application, large drops of sweat issued from the pores of the part affected. This *visible effect* took place thrice in the space of ten minutes, after which the woman declared she was relieved from pain.

" I am, Sir, with great truth,

" Your obedient servant,

" THOMAS B. CLARKE."

Great Quebec-street,
Portman-square,
May 13th 1799."

The Tractors, from being owned by this Poor House, have been used for the relief of several others. Mr. CONNO, the Governor, to whose care they are entrusted, holds them in readiness to be applied to any whom he shall conceive to be proper subjects. Among others they have cured Mrs. HARRIOT, the Mistress of the needle room, of an

Acute inflammatory Affection

on one of her hands. This came on very suddenly, was attended with a sensation of great heat. A quantity of ichor collected under the cuticle, and produced a vesication very similar to a scald. An application of the Tractors for half an hour entirely removed all appearances of the complaint.

Some other cases of rheumatism and painful swellings in the face, have also received singular benefit from

from the use of the Tractors: But as it is not the object of the Author to enter into a detail of cases, which he has not himself witnessed, he will decline adducing such cases at present.

Several gentlemen, from a desire of learning the merits of the Tractors, have accompanied the Author to this Poor House, with a view of *seeing* these cases. The Rev. Dr. TROTTER's visit has been noticed in his communication [*see page 47*] Among others might be mentioned those patrons of humanity, Sir RICHARD HILL * and his brother the Rev. BRIAN HILL.

The recent death of Mr. PHIPPIN, the late medical attendant at this Poor House, deprives me of the opportunity of procuring his statement of these cases.

EXPERIMENTS IN ST. JAMES'S POOR-HOUSE.

On the 3d of April 1797, I was notified by LUKE IDESON, Esq. Clerk of the Vestry of the Parish of St. James's, &c. &c. of the desire of the officers of that parish, to ascertain the efficacy of the Metallic Tractors *by experiment*, and if approved of, to provide their Poor House with a set of them. This request was of course cheerfully attended to; and I accordingly met some of the officers of the parish, viz. Mr. DAWES, Mr. FREEMAN, Mr. CATER, Mr. HOLME, and some others, at the Poor House, to give the Tractors a trial. On examining the sick wards,

* Sir RICHARD, who owns a set of the Tractors, has informed the Editor of his having removed, among other complaints, an obstinate inflammatory tumor on one of his domestics. The candour with which this worthy and respectable character has treated the Metallic Practice, claims from the writer the sincerest acknowledgment.

wards, and those appropriated to infirm paupers, two rheumatic cases were selected as subjects for experiment.

The first of these was CHARLOTTE HAYNES, 30 years of age, who had been afflicted for many years with the

Rheumatism,

and which was often so violent in her limbs as to render her unable to move them without much pain ; at this time the shoulder was so much affected, that she could not move her arm behind her, or raise it to her head.

The Tractors were drawn from her shoulder to the extremities of her fingers for about 12 minutes, when she was so much relieved as to be able to raise her arm over her head, and to move it behind her without pain. She perceived a great degree of heat during the application, and which she represented as a *burning sensation*.

The next case was that of MARY MANNING, 48 years of age, who was also severely afflicted with the

Acute Rheumatism ;

her shoulder had likewise been in violent pain for several days ; the hand, and particularly the joints of her fingers, were highly inflamed and swelled, but the greatest pain was in the shoulder ; she tried in our presence to raise up her arm, and to move it behind her back, neither of which could she accomplish. The Tractors were then drawn over her shoulder and downwards, for about 12 minutes, when she was so much benefited as to be able to raise her arm over her head, and even moved it far enough behind to lace her stays. The other shoulder was also in some pain, to which we also applied the Tractors, and gave relief as in the last instance. After these trials, the Author was invited to meet
some

some of the same gentlemen again to see these patients, and make further experiments in five days afterwards.

On visiting the Poor House at the time appointed, the two patients on whom the Tractors had been used were strictly examined, in presence of Mr. FREEMAN and some of the other gentlemen, who witnessed the former experiments. CHARLOTTE HAYNES had experienced some return of the pain, but was still able to raise her arm, and move it as when we left her last. The Tractors were now drawn over this arm again, and the same sensation of heat ensued, after which she was rendered easy.

The other person, MARY MANNING, had had no return of pain in the shoulder, and was still able to move her arm without inconvenience. The hands, and joints of her fingers, to which the Tractors had never been applied, continued as before, tumefied, inflamed and painful. The Tractors were drawn over them about fifteen minutes by the woman herself, when the pain was relieved in those parts. The stiffness and swelling were also sensibly diminished. This patient recovered, and was soon discharged from the house.

The Case of ELIZABETH LEWIS, 22 years of age, was now presented to us. This woman had a very

Painful inflammatory Tumor

over the whole exterior angle of the right foot, which had made its appearance in that place a short time after she had lain in. Several external applications had been made to this without success, and from its obstinacy it was apprehended that it probably might be a *sypilitic affection*. There was an appearance of an exfoliation taking place. However, as the pain was excruciating, and the patient nearly exhausted in consequence, I was willing to try the effect of the Tractors,

Tractors, and accordingly directed them to be drawn over the parts, by one of the nurses, about half an hour. The relief she experienced from their use was very great. The throbbing pain of which she at first complained was totally removed, the swelling was sensibly diminished, and the inflammation abated. The patient put her foot on the floor with very little inconvenience, which she was before unable to accomplish without great torture.

It will not be a matter of surprise, that these experiments were considered sufficiently satisfactory, to induce the gentlemen officers to provide the Poor with a set of the Tractors.

Among others who have since been cured by them, and whose cases I am authorized to publish, is Mrs. ELLIOT, the laundress. This person, after severe exercise and fatigue, was attacked with a

Violent Pain in the Foot:

The parts swelled to a considerable extent, and became highly inflamed. She applied the Tractors herself, and in about ten minutes the pain wholly subsided, and the swelling and inflammation were in a very short time hardly perceptible. She has experienced no return of the complaint.

Another case has occurred on the same person, in which the singular efficacy of the Tractors has been rendered extremely evident. Mrs. ELLIOT has, for many years, been subject to sudden and severe attacks of a

Pain in the Stomach,

which is supposed to be of the nature of those flying pains, which are common in gouty constitutions. Her life has often been threatened from the severity of these attacks. Being a few days since seized with one of them, she immediately had recourse to the Tractors, and after drawing them over the stomach
for

for about ten minutes, the pains were wholly removed, and have not returned since.

A Case of JANE BOND, servant to the matron, is also worthy of notice. This person had a very

Inflamed and painful Tumor

a little above the knee. She found great relief of the pain, inflammation, and tumefaction, from about ten minutes use of the Tractors, and was enabled to move the joint with a degree of ease, which was before impracticable.

The Tractors in this house are directed to be left in the hands of the matron (a person of excellent sense, and well instructed on medical subjects), who holds them in readiness to be used whenever occasion offers.

The above statement was shewn to the gentlemen overseers, who gave permission to have it published, and authorized a reference to the Poor House for a confirmation of the facts.

I shall next introduce an account of a few Partial Experiments made in some other public institutions. These, the reader will please to observe, are not adduced as important cases in favor of the Metallic Practice, but they are rather noticed to correct an erroneous opinion, which has been propagated, in some instances perhaps, not with the most benevolent intentions.—To be more plain, they have been most maliciously and grossly misrepresented, and tortured into every shape to depreciate the Metallic Practice. Instead of these cases being, on a *fair statement*, discreditable to the Tractors, it is conceived they will be regarded the reverse: considering the partial manner in which the applications were made, it is rather surprising so much benefit was given.

PARTIAL EXPERIMENTS IN ST. GEORGE'S
HOSPITAL.

By the politeness of Dr. PEARSON, whose liberality is equalled only by his reputation as a philosopher and a physician, the Author was invited to use the Tractors on any of his patients at St. George's Hospital, if proper subjects could be found among them. On enquiry, one

Rheumatic Case

presented. This was a labouring man, about 45 years of age, an out-patient of the hospital. He had for several weeks been troubled with pains between his shoulders, for which blisters, embrocations, and other external applications had been used. These various remedies had given no other relief than changing the seat of the complaint, which was now confined to the shoulders alone. As the parts were yet in a greasy state, from the oily applications which had been used, no considerable advantage was to be expected from the Tractors. However, they were drawn over one of the shoulders and down the arm for about ten minutes, when the pain in that shoulder was conducted into the elbow.

The application was then made for the same term of time to the other arm, and the same effect was produced; the pain in both arms being removed to the elbows, leaving the shoulder tolerably easy.

Conceiving that nothing *effectual* could be done in the present unctuous state of the parts, the patient was ordered to apply again to the hospital, if he experienced any further pain; but as he never presented himself afterwards, it may be presumed that he had no further occasion for the Tractors.

On the 20th of June 1798, I again availed myself of the kind indulgence of Dr. PEARSON, and visited the hospital a second time. Among other patients

patients who presented themselves on that day, was a woman, who complained of a violent pain in the breast, and one of her arms, extending to her fingers. This being an in-patient, the case was necessarily reported by Dr. PEARSON in his *Clinical Lectures**, one of which is delivered every Saturday morning to the class which attends his other medical lectures.

The following is an abstract from my notes of Dr. PEARSON's report of the case referred to, from the Clinical Lecture, delivered June the 23d, three days after the application of the Tractors.

"TAMUR METCROFT, aged 28, had pains in her right arm, shoulder, and breast, so severe in the latter place as to affect her breathing very much. Her pulse was one hundred and fifteen in a minute. The Metallic Tractors were applied to her arm, and the patient declared she was somewhat relieved; but on further examination of her complaint in the evening, when the same application was to have been repeated, it was found that the disease was more general and deeply seated than was at first supposed; and as the Tractors are chiefly employed in topical complaints, the case was thought not a fair one for the Metallic application, and it consequently was not repeated."

The reader will form some further idea of the nature of this case, by the subsequent report delivered in the Doctor's Clinical Lecture, August 10th, about seven weeks from the time she began with other remedies.

"It will be remembered that TAMUR METCROFT was not thought a proper subject for the Metallic Practice, and we accordingly adopted a different
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* In these *clinical lectures* an account is given of the diseases of all his in-patients of the hospital, of the remedies employed, and the progress of their complaints.

mode of treatment. This case was very obstinate. I ordered six leeches to be applied, and gave three grains of opium and calomel divided into three doses every day. On the 9th of July, her arm appeared a little better, but the pain in her breast was as bad as ever. I ordered twelve leeches and three blisters, which were successively applied to the chest and neck. On the 16th, the breast was better, but her arm was become very painful again. On the 20th, the pain returned to her breast again, but not quite so violent as when she first came into the hospital. There seemed to be some affection in the breast of this patient, which was not easily to be removed. 3d August, she was free from all her pains, but her arm was extremely weak, so much so that she could with great difficulty raise it up."

On the 18th of July, a day for admitting patients, the Author again accompanied Dr. PEARSON to St. George's Hospital. Among the patients then presented was SARAH Cox, aged 27.

On the following Saturday, 21st, we had the Doctor's Clinical Lecture, which reported this case as follows:

"This woman, on examination, stated, that for the three last months she had been troubled with *rheumatic pains* all over her, and which at this time chiefly affected her arms, hands, knees, and feet; likewise between her shoulders; the tongue was white, pulse one hundred and thirty, and skin cold.

"This was thought to be a case in which the Tractors might be beneficial, and they were accordingly applied to her legs and arms. In fifteen minutes she said she was relieved, and her skin was much warmer. The same application was repeated in the evening, and she again found benefit. In the morning the Tractors were again used, and she reported that her arms were free from pain. It was however

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then

then observed, that she *coughed* considerably ; and on more particular enquiry she acknowledged, that for three months she had been severely afflicted with a cough, and during that time had not been able to lie on her left side ! On this discovery the Tractors were laid aside, and I advised remedies for her pulmonary complaint, as bleeding, &c."

A subsequent report on the issue of this case, will show what grounds there were for expecting a cure from the Tractors.

Clinical Lecture, July 28th, 1798.

" The Case of SARAH COX, which was reported in our last clinical lecture, deserves particular attention. It will be recollected, that from her statement of the symptoms, it was supposed she had no other complaint than the *rheumatism*, but that on further enquiry we found she had concealed from us the symptoms which related to an affection in her breast. I first ordered her to be bled, and then to take some expectorating pills composed of gum ammoniac, James's powder, opium, and squills. In three or four days after, she again complained of the pain in her limbs. I then ordered her an anodyne ; bled her a second time, but the blood was not buffy ; pulse one-hundred and twenty, and small. In ten days she was confined to her bed ; her breathing became very short, and she was extremely weak ; on the following day she died without a struggle.

" We often have great difficulty in judging right of the diseases of many patients, who present themselves to an hospital. They come under the influence of great prejudices. This person, when she was first examined respecting her complaints, did not acquaint us with her pain in her breast, in consequence of having been told that no *consumptive* patients could gain admittance into the hospital.

" This

"This case deserved further investigation, and we accordingly after death examined the lungs. In the right lobe we found a few tubercles, but no inflammation. On the left side, the parts were very much diseased; nearly a quart of water in the cavity of the breast, and about two ounces in the *pericardium*. The left lob was highly inflamed, and full of tubercles, which probably had been forming for six months past. In this side also were two large *verrucae*: a piece of this lobe sunk readily in water.

"After seeing the situation of this patient's lungs, it will not be a matter of surprize that she was not cured by the Tractors, nor by the treatment which was afterwards adopted. Before she applied to the hospital, she was undoubtedly beyond the reach of human assistance."

In addition to the above extracts from Dr. PEARSON'S Lectures, it may be proper barely to observe, that the second patient, TAMUR METCROFT, during the application of the Tractors, was entrusted to the care of the late Mr. HAWKINS, the apothecary to the house. He was requested to repeat the application in the evening, and again about eight o'clock the next morning. The patient was of course to take no medicine in the mean time. On visiting her at one o'clock the next day, I learned that the Tractors had not been used in the preceeding evening nor that morning, for the reasons which Dr. PEARSON had suggested. Mr. HAWKINS, having in the evening perceived the complaint to be different from what the patient had represented at first, immediately had recourse to other remedies. As she was now under their operation, it was improper to use the Tractors with a view of ascertaining their effects. Although Mr. HAWKINS's determination in that case met with my fullest concurrence, yet had this been a patient in private practice, where some domestic in a family

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mily had leisure to bestow that attention to the application which is necessary to ensure success, I should not have hesitated to promise a cure; but in the hospital, where a hundred others have an equal claim to the attendance of the apothecary, he could not have been able to employ the Metallic Practice with any prospect of real advantage.

That decisive method, which Dr. PEARSON adopted to ascertain the nature of the disease in the case of SARAH COX; and which that learned Lecturer, as on all other occasions, was attentive to report, for the instruction of his numerous pupils, has fully evinced that her situation was past recovery.

These compose all the experiments the Author made in St. George's Hospital. They are partly irrelevant to the object of our present enquiry, as they do not afford any decisive evidence in favour of, or against the Metallic Practice. They have, however, confirmed what has been observed in the Preliminary Observations, the unfitness of *hospital experiments* for ascertaining the merits of the Tractors.

Conceiving that further experiments in the hospital would be liable to circumstances similar to those just adduced, I discontinued my practice in that house. This statement was shown to Dr. PEARSON and the facts approved of, before it was published.

A VISIT TO CLERKENWELL POOR-HOUSE.

The Author was invited to meet some of the officers of the parish of Clerkenwell, to use the Tractors on the infirm paupers in their poor-house.

The first patient that presented was a young woman, about 24 years of age. This poor object had been for about three years extremely afflicted with some constitutional complaint affecting her whole system, during which time she had been in some of the London hospitals, and under the care of several
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of the most eminent physicians, without receiving the least benefit.

It being the wish of some of the gentlemen present, that the Tractors might be drawn over this person, I complied, though with a previous declaration that she must not expect much benefit, as her disease seemed to be a nervous complaint, equally affecting her whole body. They were accordingly used a few minutes on one of her arms, and no other effect was produced than a motion of the pain after their points.

On examining the apartments of the men, we found a person, aged about 60, who had for a number of years been troubled with a

Rheumatic Pain

in his shoulders. For the nine months preceding he had not been able to raise up his right arm sufficiently to put on his waistcoat without help. To this patient I promised benefit. After drawing the Tractors over his shoulders, and down to the end of his fingers, for about ten minutes, he was so much relieved as to be able to raise his arm over his head, and put on his waistcoat without any assistance, and this he effected with great ease. When we left the house, about an hour and an half afterwards, his arm remained very supple, so that he could easily move it in any direction.

The next Case was that of a man, aged about 65, who had been troubled for many years with a

Pain in the Hip,

which had proceeded to that degree, that one leg was shorter than the other, and he could walk only by the assistance of crutches. The Tractors were applied to him about ten minutes, when he put his foot down flat upon the floor, and stamped with considerable force, without giving him any pain. This,

This, he said, he had not been able to do for many years before. We left him free from pain, and walking about the room without any support.

In the women's apartment we met with a

Painful Chronic Affection in the Head,

upwards of twelve years duration, in a subject about 60 years of age. When we began using the Tractors the pain was violent, but after about twelve minutes application she was rendered perfectly easy.

As the Tractors were never used a second time on any of these patients, there must necessarily have been a gradual recurrence of their complaints. The three last mentioned persons, by a *proper* application of this remedy, might in all probability have been greatly relieved, if not cured. Chronic affections of this description require a long perseverance in the practice, and when this is *faithfully* attended to, but few cases will occur, where a cure may not be eventually effected by the influence of the Tractors.

The Author having requested Messrs. BLETCHLY, BOUND, and COWLAND, Churchwardens of the parish of Clerkenwell, and the Rev. WILLIAM VIDLER, all of whom were present during these applications, to oblige him with their sentiments on the foregoing statement, has been favoured with the following:

“Clerkenwell, May 17th, 1799.

“We have examined Mr. PERKINS's statement of his experiments with the Metallic Tractors in Clerkenwell Poor-house, which were made in our presence, by request of some of the officers of this parish, and find it to be perfectly correct.

WILLIAM VIDLER,	} Church-
MICHAEL BLETCHLY,	
WILLIAM BOUND,	
WILLIAM COWLAND,	
wardens.”	

The Rev. Mr. VIDLER, who has himself, recently performed some cures with the Tractors, after acknowledging the correctness of the above statement, adds in his note, "I wish the efficacy of the Tractors was more known. They would then be in general use."

Mr. COWLAND also informs of his having cured himself of a very *severe burn*, and a servant in his family of an *acute rheumatism* in the leg, which was highly inflamed and swelled.

A VISIT TO THE REGIMENTAL HOSPITAL OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF YORK.

On the 20th of January the Author made some experiments in the Regimental Hospital of his Royal Highness the Duke of YORK, commonly called the Coldstream Hospital. Mr. KNIGHT, Surgeon to the Dukes of YORK and CLARENCE, who presides over that establishment, and to whose politeness I was indebted for an invitation to use the Tractors in that place, selected some subjects for experiment. The first was a German, who had been confined to his bed for several days with an

Acute Rheumatism.

When we saw him the pain was chiefly in his shoulder, and was so considerable as to prevent him from raising his right arm to his head. After drawing the Tractors over this shoulder, and down to the ends of his fingers, for about twelve minutes, he raised his arm over his head without giving him but very little pain. Before we left the house he was so much benefited, that he put on his coat without any assistance, which he had been unable to effect since the commencement of his illness.

The next case was that of a person severely affected with the

Acute Rheumatism

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in both shoulders and arms, the least motion occasioned very great pain. This patient was distinguished as a steady and intelligent man, and better educated than the generality of soldiers. His account of the effects which he should perceive on the application of the Tractors, Mr. Knight observed, would be more satisfactory to him than the declaration of persons with whom he had not been previously acquainted. The Tractors were drawn over the shoulder of this man, and conducted to the ends of his fingers, for about ten minutes, when he remarked that the pain was lessened, and on attempting to move it, he found he could raise it over his head, which he was unable to do before. The operation was then performed for the same term of time on the other arm, and the same favourable change ensued. He was now able to raise both arms over his head, and move them with greater ease in every direction.

The Author's avocations not permitting him to visit this Hospital to repeat the use of the Tractors on these two persons, which, to have completed a cure, should have been done three times in the day, and continued for three or four days, there was necessarily, on the next day, a recurrence of the symptoms. The efficacy of the Tractors, even in these partial experiments, was sufficiently evinced to induce the Rev. ROBERT LOWTH, son to the late Bishop Lowth, who attended during the applications, to get a set of the Tractors, for the benevolent purpose of extending their usefulness to the afflicted poor in his neighbourhood.

Ever scrupulous that my experiments might be given with the utmost correctness, the above was shewn to Mr. Knight, who authorized me to say, that he had examined the statement, and found it perfectly correct.

The reader is now competent to judge how far the experiments in the three last mentioned institutions, upon a *fair* statement, may tend to prove the inefficacy of the Metallic Practice. Some of the cases, it will no doubt be observed, bear so little reference to the point in question, that any notice of them was unnecessary. As such I should have regarded them, and in consequence passed them over in silence, had I not been taught to know that the clamours of *interest*, *ignorance*, and *prejudice*, were not unemployed to discredit them. It has been my care that they be stated in as impartial a manner as possible. If on enquiry they prove otherwise, there are those who will gladly grasp at the opportunity of giving them a *different* complexion. Experiments in hospitals, for the reasons suggested in the Preliminary Observations, are more indecisive than where the character and disease of the patient are better known. In private practice, where the applications are made under proper advantages for *fair trials*, the results have been almost universally successful. But to give publicity to these, and thereby expose the names of patients, for very obvious reasons, would have been highly improper. The numerous families of the Nobility and others, whom I have had the honour of attending, and by whom the Tractors are owned, are competent to speak on their merits; and as those characters are in number too considerable, and for philanthropy too distinguished to withhold through conversation, and the various other channels of communication, the benefit they have derived, the necessity of publishing them is in part superseded. Indeed the statements of the practice of others, of which I am supplied with many more than will ever be used, have perhaps with greater propriety been selected for publication.

EPITOME

of

MR. LANGWORTHY'S PRACTICE.

Among the numerous experiments that have been made with the Tractors in this country, none have a greater claim to notice than those by Mr. C. C. LANGWORTHY, surgeon, of Bath. On completing his regular medical education in London, he made a tour to America, where he heard and saw much of the Metallic Practice. On his return to this country, he provided himself with a set of the Tractors, embraced every opportunity of trying their merits by the test of experiment, and kept an exact register of all the cases. This he presented to the public in a large octavo pamphlet, in the spring of 1799. The work is entitled, "*A View of Perkinsian Electricity, or an Enquiry into the Influence of Metallic Tractors: with a Variety of Experiments in London, Bath, and Bristol, which have fully ascertained the Efficacy of the Metallic Practice.*" Price 2s. 6d. Sold by Johnson, St. Paul's Church-yard, London; and Cruikshank, Bath."

MR. LANGWORTHY'S conviction of the importance of the Discovery, determined him to devote his attention solely to the Metallic Practice; and his success in it has been commensurate only with the very accurate and extensive knowledge he has acquired of the kind of diseases applicable to the remedy, of the mode of operation, and, indeed, of the general merits of the subject. The limits of this Tract will not admit of a copious extract from the Cases he has published; but I must give place to a few of them.

Chronic Rheumatism.

MR. BIRD, of Sion House, or Upper Hotwell, had been subject to violent rheumatic pains for upwards of ten years, which attacked him at various periods of

the year, and sometimes rendered him incapable of walking or using his limbs. About two months before Mr. L. saw him he was seized so severely in his right arm, from his shoulder to the wrist, that he could not move it without violent pain, and was obliged to absent himself from duty that day as member of the Bristol Volunteers. Mr. L. applied the Tractors, and in a few minutes the pain descended from the shoulder to the hand; in less than a quarter of an hour he could lift his arm to his head, and move it in all directions with perfect ease. A slight pain remained in his wrist, which however in a few hours went gradually off, and he felt no return. In his former attacks the pain had generally lasted for several weeks; and it was evident that the progress of the disease was stopped and removed by the Tractors.

Acute Rheumatism.

Mr. WHEELER, the book-keeper of the Rummer Tavern, Bristol, had been afflicted with a violent *acute rheumatism* for six weeks, which confined him to his bed. He had tried various applications without effect. "I visited Mr. WHEELER," says Mr. L. "in company with Dr. O'CONNELL, and found him in very violent pain in all his limbs, and incapable of moving his right arm to his head, or taking up the cup in which his wife usually administered to him his drink. I drew the Tractors over his right shoulder, extending them along the deltoid muscle, down his arm, in the course of the nerve, to the end of his fingers, which were tumefied but not inflamed. At the expiration of fifteen minutes, he declared that the pains were entirely removed, and to his great astonishment, as well as that of his wife and Dr. O'CONNELL, he could move his arm in every direction, and taking up the cup, he exclaimed, "Look, look, I can lift it to my mouth with perfect ease!" He had also violent pains in his right thigh,

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on which I operated about as long a time as on his arm, when he said he was entirely free from pain, and expressed a desire to walk, which he did with great ease. The next day, when I called on him again, I found he had slept well, which he had not done from the period he was first taken ill to the time I saw him. The pains had not returned in his right arm nor right thigh, but his left thigh had been for two hours so painful, that he was incapable of moving it in the least degree. I operated on it for twenty minutes, when the pain was entirely removed, and he walked about the room nearly a quarter of an hour with perfect ease. The next day he told me he was much better, but the pains had not entirely left him. I applied the Tractors to all his limbs, and left him quite easy. Two days after I called on him again, and found that he was gone out, was free from pain, had a good appetite, rested well at night, and had no other complaint than debility. When I had done with him, he washed himself in linimentum saponis. He has since gained strength and flesh very rapidly, and is now quite well, and follows his usual occupation as book-keeper at the Rummer-Tavern."

"Mr. COWARD, book-keeper, at the Bush, Bristol, was attacked with an

Inflammatory Rheumatism

in his foot, which had continued three or four days, and gave him much pain, inflammation, and swelling. The flannel in which his foot was wrapped being removed, the Tractors were applied for about a quarter of an hour, when a perspiration came on all over his body, and he felt quite easy. The inflammation disappeared, and the second day he put on his stocking and shoe, and has felt no return of pain since. It is two months since the application."

Mr. LANGWORTHY publishes the following communication from Mr. ELFORD SPARKE LANGWORTHY, a Surgeon, of Brixham, Devonshire.

“ August 30th, 1798.

“ — The Cases I have met with have been but few, but in those few the applications have been attended with considerable benefit.—A boy, 14 years of age, about a year and a half since was attacked with a fever of the *typhus kind*, which in a few weeks terminated in a confirmed

Sciatica.

Stimulants were applied to the part affected; sea-bathing was also had recourse to, and a variety of medicines given internally. But all these means proving unsuccessful, he was admitted into the Exeter hospital, where he remained for some time, but received no benefit. Since he was dismissed from the hospital, he has continued to bathe in the sea, by which his general health has been somewhat mended, but the lameness continued nearly the same. He is by trade a thatcher, and his situation in life compelled him to pursue it in the best manner he could. His method of getting his reed upon the house or stack which he had to thatch was, by dividing the bundles into several parts, which he placed on a ladder, one at a time, just high enough to be able to support it with his head, while he held fast by the ladder with both hands, in order to bring up his leg. This was the only way that he could ascend. I ought to tell you, that the diseased limb is nearly an inch and a half shorter than the corresponding one, and considerably smaller; and that he was subject to violent pains on every change of weather.

“ During the first four or five days, he perceived no material benefit from the Tractors, otherwise than that they produced a great degree of heat on the
skin,

skin, which gave him more feeling in the limb than he had before. At the end of ten days or a fortnight he was considerably better, and is, at the time of my writing (which is three weeks from the commencement of the application) so much recovered, that he now carries his reed in whole bundles upon the house, holding them with one hand, while he supports himself up the ladder with the other. Before the application of the Tractors, he could not reach the ground with his hand without throwing the diseased limb behind him, but he can now stoop so as to take up any thing upon a level with his feet, and even buckle his shoes. I have operated upon him twice a day when I have had an opportunity, but he often goes into the country too early for me in the morning, and is frequently too late at night, so that he has not given the Tractors so fair a trial as he ought. He has had no return of the pain, even in the smallest degree.

The next Case is that of a woman of this place, who had laboured under a

Quinsy

for several days, and at length the inflammation and swelling were so great that she could not swallow any thing even in a fluid state. I applied the instruments, and in less than five minutes she exclaimed with great joy that she "was better, and that she could swallow her spittle, which she had not been able to do for several days before:" I continued the application about ten minutes longer, when a profuse perspiration broke out all over her face and neck, attended with a considerable efflorescence on the skin, in the fore part of her neck; as soon as I had finished the application, she sat down and made a hearty breakfast. The next morning the pain returned in a slight degree, but after drinking a little warm tea was easy: nor had I any occasion to apply the Tractors a second time.

"Another Case occurred to me on Sunday last:—
A woman had been afflicted with a

Violent rheumatic Pain in her Head and Face

for six weeks. The first application procured her a good night's rest (which she had not experienced during the whole of her illness before), and a second removed the complaint entirely. In neither of the above Cases has any kind of medicine been administered. Should you think these Cases, or either of them, worth inserting in your pamphlet, you are at liberty to make what use of them you may think proper.

Your's affectionately,

"ELFORD SPARKE LANGWORTHY."

The following Case occurred in the practice of Mr. HOYLES, Surgeon, of Dartmouth.

"About three o'clock in the morning he was called up to a young woman in the town, who was labouring under a

Violent Pain in the Side,

attended with difficulty of breathing; she had been bled for the same complaint some days prior to this attack, with some benefit, but the complaint had now returned with redoubled violence. He sat down by the bed-side of his patient, with but little expectations of finding any good effects from the application, and used the Tractors, when, to his great astonishment, as well as that of his patient, she was in five minutes much easier, and in ten minutes more she was perfectly relieved, and has remained well ever since."

The following, from a Gentleman of Rank and high Respectability, Mr. LANGWORTHY publishes:

"Bath, December 24th, 1798.

"Sir WILLIAM BARKER presents his compliments to Mr. LANGWORTHY; he has not the least
§ objection

objection to have his name inserted with those who have received benefit from the use of the Metallic Tractors. He has been afflicted with

Violent rheumatic Pains

in each of his knees, at different times, for upwards of ten years, and in his hips and back; he has tried a variety of medicines, and both sea-bathing and Buxton waters, with little or no effect. He could not walk a street's length when he came here (some months since) without suffering great pain, but is now able to walk over the whole town with little or no pain, which he attributes to the use of the Tractors."

In a subsequent part of his work, Mr. LANG-WORTHY says, "I am singularly happy to adduce the testimony of a gentleman of high professional character. Mr. LYSTER, formerly senior Surgeon to the Dublin hospital, and for many years an eminent surgeon in Bath, has given me leave to publish, that he has cured several *active inflammations* of the face with the Tractors; and has succeeded in one remarkable case of a *whitlow*, even after he thought suppuration had taken place. The following Case of

Rheumatism

fell under his observation. A servant applied to him who was quite a cripple, and had laboured under the *most excruciating pains in his back, legs, and arms*, eighteen months, never having received ease from the many things he had taken. From the first application of the Tractors, this poor man received great benefit, and to make use of Mr. LYSTER's own words—"At the expiration of three weeks, by operating daily, he could walk as well and as up-right as any man in Bath." Mr. LYSTER makes mention of many other cases of rheumatism, and *topical inflammatory complaints*.

" I have permission," says Mr L. " of Dr. FELLOWS*, of Bath, to state the particulars of the treatment of one of his servants. The Doctor, expressing at different times his wishes to be informed of the success of the Tractors, I called on him for that purpose. An opportunity immediately offered. One of his servants had a few hours before

Sprained his Ankle.

A violent inflammation ensued, with great pain and swelling. I applied the Tractors for ten minutes, when he fainted and was extremely sick ; which symptoms I have frequently remarked to be the effect of the application of the Tractors, when the cure is about to follow. Half an hour after, he was operated upon again, which entirely removed the pain and inflammation. It is six weeks since the accident happened, and he has had no return of pain. I beg leave to add, that Dr. FELLOWS, with the spirit of liberality always attendant on science, directed by the testimony of his senses, freely gave me leave to use his name on this occasion."

" JOHN MOODY (distributor of the Bath Chronicle) had, from April 1798, been afflicted with

Violent Pains in his Head,

attended with giddiness and night sweats. He had been in the infirmary and dispensary for six months without finding any benefit, and in that hopeless state was recommended to me by his master. I applied the Tractors daily to his head for upwards of a month, and am happy to say that he is quite well. For these last six weeks he has been engaged in his usual occupation. Much might be said of this man's case, but Mr. CRUTT WELL will, with pleasure, relate the cure

* Physician Extraordinary to his Royal Highness the Prince of WALES.

cure to any one who may call on him for that purpose."

Mr. LANGWORTHY's publication contains many more Cases, equally demonstrative of the efficacy of the Tractors, but the few I have quoted will serve to give some idea of the general success of the Metallic Practice in his hands. The diseases; in which he found the Tractors most efficacious, were, *painful topical affections, as chronic and inflammatory rheumatism, inflammatory gout, quinsy, erysipelas, tetters, tumefactions from contusions, scalds, burns, inflammations of the eyes, head-achs, and pains on various parts of the body.*

The causes of his failure were similar to those which have been remarked, by all who have made nice observations during their practice with the Tractors.—The presence of *oily, greasy, or pestiferable* matter was an insurmountable obstacle to success.

It will not be a subject of surprise with the reader, that Mr. L. after such evidence, should entertain a favourable opinion of the merits of the Metallic Practice. This may be given in a few words: "I believe," says he, "a new discovery in the economy of nature to have been made, which is capable of being converted to a happy alleviation of human affliction; and my most ardent, and I will say my only wish is, that the truth or fallacy of the doctrine may be ascertained by others."

After expressing his wish to meet medical men with this view at all times, to adopt whatever mode they may chuse, in order to come to a true knowledge of the merits of this remedy, he concludes:

"After witnessing the efficacy of the PERKINEAN PRACTICE in the cases I have stated, and after what I have written on the subject, *my own faith* in the science cannot be doubted. But having thus offered my pretensions to the eye of philosophy, and the test of experiment, I am fairly before the public; and with all the deference due to it from one of the hum-

blest of its members, confident of its candour, I patiently await its decision."

Few, it is believed, will peruse the publication of Mr. LANGWORTHY without giving him much credit for the liberal and honourable proposals which he makes to scientific men, to come and examine the merits of this practice. With a view of inviting them to the investigation, he observes:

"I propose to operate on all persons afflicted with any of the diseases here enumerated, in the presence of such physicians, surgeons, or others, as may be desirous of witnessing the operation; and I thus publicly invite them to procure such patients for the purpose, as may come within their knowledge. The numerous hospitals, infirmaries, almshouses, and other charitable institutions, must at all seasons furnish fit subjects for my practice; and I will readily and willingly attend the directors and physicians who have the care of them, and make my experiments in their presence.

"All such poor persons as come to me will be relieved gratis, if their cases fall within my practice; and the doors will be open for medical and other gentlemen, who will bring such persons, either for the purpose of ascertaining the truth of my pretensions, or gratifying their curiosity.

"But while I offer proposals so convenient to the poor and necessitous, it is necessary to observe, that I expect the regular fees of my profession, from patients who may be able to pay them. In this respect, however, I shall conform myself to moderation, and the circumstances of the applicants, as far as the charges of my education, and the expences of my undertaking and situation in life will permit.

"In drawing up this manual, I am not conscious of having mistated facts, or that I could have made a more candid proposal for bringing my pretensions to a proper test. And all I can add is, that if any
assemblage

asssemblage of medical or other gentlemen, will offer a plan, more likely to obtain the end desired, I shall hold myself bound in honour and in duty, as well as inclination, to co-operate with them in any way in my power."

Only a part of the Experiments of Mr. LANGWORTHY has been adduced in these quotations. The perusal of his work would afford much satisfaction and instruction to those who wish to gain information on this practice. To that alone I should have referred them; but, consistent with my original design of noticing the experience of those who have practised most with the Tractors in this country, Mr. LANGWORTHY'S merited a particular notice.

PART II.

A FEW CASES IN AMERICA.

COMMUNICATED TO DR. PERKINS.

THE limits of this Tract will not allow of citing many transatlantic cases. A considerable number having already been published in this country, in the work in which I gave the history of the discovery entitled, "*Influence of Metallic Tractors on the Human Body, &c.*" [price 2s. 6d. Johnson.] Persons desirous of seeing them, can have recourse to that for the purpose. As the practice has been longer before the public in America than in England, and as the professional character of Dr. Perkins, the Discoverer, was better known, it may be conceived, that many more attestations would there have been published than at this early period here. Among those who stated cases of successful practice, and who presented their names to the public, as men who approved of the Discovery, and acknowledged themselves instrumental in circulating the Tractors,
I have

I have now with me a book containing the names of FORTY-TWO PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, of eminence in their profession, TWENTY-TWO CLERGYMEN, most of whom are Doctors of Divinity, and connected with literary institutions, TWO PROFESSORS OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY in two different Universities, several Members of Congress, and other Personages, filling the highest Offices in the Government of the Country.

For the high character given of those of the American Cases, which have been re-published here, see quotations from the different Reviews, in the "Preliminary Observations." A few shall be cited.

MR. MEIGS, PROFESSOR OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN.

September 18th 1798.

"Dear Sir,

Peripneumonic Affection.

"AS I am daily confirmed in the opinion, that facts form the most valuable part of our knowledge, I think it my duty to communicate to you the following: In March last, my son, about eight years of age, was seized with a complaint of the peripneumonic kind, attended with a violent pain in the left side, accompanied with a high fever and severe cough.

By the care of Dr. Munson * he was in three or four days so far restored, that on the fifth day he walked about the house. This exposed him to a relapse, for on the sixth day he was seized with a return of the symptoms: his fever was higher, the pain on the left side was greater, attended with a soreness, which, whenever he coughed, forced him to cry out. He was obliged to lie on his back, being neither able to turn himself or be turned. Dr. Munson being again called, pronounced his case a hazardous one; and, after having prescribed what he thought proper suggested a trial of your Tractors.

This

* President of the Connecticut Medical Society.

This I immediately undertook, and in about half an hour he declared his pain was gone, turned himself without difficulty on his right side, and fell into a profound sleep, accompanied by a remarkably profuse perspiration, which bursted from every pore. After a sleep of six or seven hours, he awoke in perfect health, and has continued so to this day. It appeared to me that the marks of the points on his side were larger, more inflamed and swelled, than could have been expected from the mere mechanical irritation of the metals applied so gently and lightly, as in this case. This circumstance I mention, because it may perhaps assist in the formation of a theory on this subject.

I am, dear Sir, your's,

JOSIAH MEIGS.

MR. WOODWARD, PROFESSOR OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF DARTMOUTH, &c. &c.

Pains in the Head, Face, Teeth, Salt Rheum, and a Sprain.

"I have made use of your Tractors in various disorders, and besides universally abating, and generally removing pains in the head, face, teeth, &c. I have found them useful in the salt rheum*. Only one opportunity has presented for an effectual trial; that has cured the patient by three applications, which being known, several persons, afflicted with that disease, have been to my house to have the experiment performed on them; the disorders have abated on the first trial; and the present prospect is, that cures will be effected for them by further use of the Tractors. A violent pain, proceeding from a sprain in the foot, has been removed so as not to return.

"I have the honour to be, dear Sir, your's,

"B. ZALEEL WOODWARD."

* A disease of the skin, very common in New England, much resembling the itch, but not contagious; and is more local.

REV.

REV. WILLIAM ROGERS, D. D. PROFESSOR OF
ORATORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYL-
VANIA, &c. &c.

Philadelphia, June 1st, 1797.

Inflamed Eyes.

"MR. MARAT, of Philadelphia, was some time since afflicted with a violent inflammation in his left eye, accompanied with severe pain, which extended through the head, and deprived him of rest. The eye was entirely closed, and constantly discharging water. Several things were applied to give him ease, but to no purpose. I told him, on opening it gently with my fingers, it was too bad to be relieved by the Tractors, as it was entirely of a bloody colour, and all the parts contiguous greatly swelled and much inflamed; however, I would try their efficacy. I applied them a few minutes, and he began to open the eye. I continued using the Tractors, for the space of ten or fifteen minutes, when the pain and inflammation were entirely removed, and he opened his eye without difficulty. He returned to his family wholly relieved, had an appetite for his food, and next day went to his accustomed labour.—A few days after he had an inflammation in his right eye, attended with very considerable pain. I again applied the Tractors, and he was almost instantly relieved. From that time to this he has been, as to his eyes, as well as ever he was in his life. I have used the Tractors in some other instances with success.—Allow me to subscribe myself,

"Your friend,

"WILLIAM ROGERS."

DOCTORS BAKER, HALL, LORD, AND BREWSTER,
THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNTY OF
WINDHAM, IN THE CONNECTICUT MEDICAL
CONVENTION. Windham County.

Pains, spasmodic and inflammatory Affections

"From a variety of cases which have occurred,
not

not only in our own practice, but in that of our neighbouring physicians, we are *fully convinced* of the utility of the Metallic Tractors, in removing various pains, spasmodic and inflammatory affections from the human body, and that the discovery is of importance to the healing art.

JOSEPH BAKER,	} Fellows of the Connecticut Me- dical Society."
JONATHAN HALL,	
ELISHA LORD,	
JOHN BREWSTER,	

FREDERIC DALCHO, M. D. SURGEON IN THE
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE
HON. JAMES M. HENRY, SECRETARY AT WAR.

Fort Johnson, S. C. March 1799.

"For about two years past, Captain Kaltaisen, the commanding officer of the garrison, has been much afflicted with a

Spasmodic Affection on the left Side of his Head;

and for several months it has become so very frequent and violent as to affect his senses in a great degree. All the variety of applications which have been made, afforded him not the smallest relief; and I doubted of his ever obtaining it, at his advanced age, seventy-three years. A few days since he was so violently attacked, that the intellectual functions were entirely deranged; and I apprehended very serious consequences. In this situation I purchased a set of Dr. PERKINS's Tractors; the first application of which held out the pleasing prospect of his entire recovery: after repeating it for a few days he became perfectly easy, and free from pain; and his mind restored to its natural strength, no indisposition remaining but what is consequent on age.

"I have the honour to be yours,

"F. DALCHO."

DR.

DR. THOMAS BACKUS, OF PLAINFIELD; MEMBER OF THE CONNECTICUT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

" I was called on the 4th ult. to attend a patient, James Crawford, who, for about five years, has been frequently troubled with a species of

Epileptic Fits.

When I first saw him he had experienced, in the course of the day, twelve, each of which held him nearly fifteen minutes. I took from him about fourteen ounces of blood; but discovering no happy effect, I applied the Tractors to his right leg, in which he usually experienced the first attack of his fits. The whole leg immediately became limber, and free from spasm; and he soon revived, without suffering a general convulsion. About twenty minutes after, I being out of his room, was informed that the symptoms of another fit appeared; and before I could operate on him he was universally convulsed, with an entire loss of reason. I then drew the Tractors over his right leg again, six or eight times, when the spasms immediately ceased, and his reason was instantly restored. Several others at intervals commenced with their usual symptoms, so contracting and cramping the right leg, that the utmost exertions of two men were unable to straighten it, each of which were removed in less than a minute by five or six strokes of the Tractors, before the spasm had extended to the other parts of his body: the leg almost instantaneously becoming perfectly lax.

" By the request of a number of gentlemen, who by this time had convened to behold this singular phenomenon, when the symptoms of a fit appeared I ceased to use the Tractors, that we might determine whether the above operations had prevented the general convulsions, which, before their application,

tion, had always succeeded the attack in his leg. Immediately he went into a very severe fit, which appeared in one universal spasm. In this situation I suffered him to continue a few minutes, which was long enough for the experiment, when, by applying the Tractors to his leg again, in less than one minute, he was entirely freed from every kind of spasm, and his reason restored.

"About one hour and a half after the first application of the Tractors, the fits entirely subsided. He became very easy, and experienced none of those disagreeable sensations which he ever had, after former attacks of this kind. As he had usually been afflicted with these fits, except at a few intervals of twelve or fifteen minutes each, about 24 hours, it must be evident that the influence of the Tractors not only shortened the fits, but lessened their number; as at this time they continued not more than nine or ten hours from their commencement, and an hour and a half after the first experiment. He has discovered none of that debility which has usually succeeded his former attacks, and continues to this day enjoying better health than usual.

"Your humble servant,

"THOMAS BACKUS."

BENJAMIN SHREVE, OF ALEXANDRIA, STATE OF VIRGINIA; OF THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS.

5th month, 16th day, 1798.

"I have been witness to a successful operation of thy Tractors on my son in case of

Epileptic Fits,

to which he has been subject about eighteen months. On the 23d of the 4th month, he was seized with one, with entire loss of reason. His hands were so clenched together with spasms, that the efforts of JAMES LAURASON, whose assistance I called in, and my own, could not open them. In this situation we applied

applied thy Tractors to each arm, drawing them from the elbow down to his hand, and, to our great surprise, his hands soon became perfectly lax, and opened with ease: by continuing the application on his head for a few minutes, he came to his reason, and went to sleep, since which he has had no more signs of them. On all former attacks, they have continued six or eight hours, and from twelve to twenty in number. Bleeding and other means have been used, but he was never before relieved of them so immediately. I am confident the Tractors effected the relief.

Thy friend,

BENJAMIN SHREVE."

REV. JEDEDIAH MORSE, D. D. OF CHARLESTON, MASSACHUSETTS, FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AUTHOR OF THE "UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHY," "AMERICAN GAZETTEER," &c. &c.

"I have made a successful trial of your Metallic Tractors in a number of Cases, such as *Burns, Pains in the Head, Teeth, Face, Ears, Side, Back,* and limbs, arising from cold. In some Cases I have been unsuccessful, particularly in a burn, where oil had been previously applied, and in the tooth-ach, where the teeth were very defective. On the whole, I think the discovery to be a very useful one, and wish it cordially all imaginable success. I have the honour to be,

Dear Sir, your most obedient,

"JEDEDIAH MORSE."

SAMUEL WILLARD, M. D. OF STAFFORD, MEMBER OF THE CONNECTICUT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Rheumatism and Burn.

"Since I returned to Stafford, I have made trial of your Tractors, with very happy success, in a Case of

of rheumatism, which had for a long time baffled all the remedies to which I myself and two other physicians had advised. The wart which I burned down, when at your house, gave me no trouble as to any sensation of heat after you applied the Tractors to the inflamed part. I felt a soreness for several days after, but it was no greater than would have arisen from the destruction of so much flesh from any other cause. It argues great folly to condemn any innovations, or attempts at improvement in the arts, without due investigation. This is a kind of treatment, however, which your discovery, as well as others, have experienced, and while human nature is the same, must expect still to experience.

"I am, dear Sir, your humble servant,
"SAMUEL WILLARD."

Dr. JAMES GOSS, OF GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

Severe Scald on an Infant Child.

"I this day saw your Tractors applied with success on a child of Mr. JAMES SMITH, fifteen months old, which had been about an hour before very severely scalded, by falling into boiling fat *, with one hand and arm, on which large blisters were raised. After a few minutes operation, the redness and inflammation were almost wholly removed, and the child appeared to be eased of pain.

"I am yours, &c.

JAMES GOSS.

SAMUEL H. P. LEE, M. D. OF NEW LONDON,
MEMBER OF THE CONNECTICUT MEDICAL
SOCIETY.

"My infant child was

Scalded with hot Tea

on the forehead, about three and a half inches in

* The oily matter from the fat was removed previous to the application of the Tractors.

length, and three-fourths of an inch in breadth, which raised a vesicle before I had time to apply any thing to it. The Tractors were solely used, and the whole redness disappeared. The blister broke, and the liquor under it formed itself into a scabby surface. The next day the wound was perfectly circumscribed to the part blistered, and the whole cast off, and left the second skin perfectly entire, without the smallest appearance of suppuration or inflammation; and, what is extraordinary, it never appeared to give the child the smallest pain, itching, or smarting, and in appearance was so unlike a scald, that enquiries were made what it was that grew on the child's forehead.

"I have used the Tractors in many other instances, wherein they appeared to have very salutary effects; but as the use of them was accompanied with other remedies, I forbear mentioning them in this place.

"Believe me, dear Sir, your very humble servant,
"SAMUEL H. P. LEE."

DR. RUFUS JOHNSON, OF CANTERBURY; MEMBER
OF THE CONNECTICUT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

"In the course of my practice, a few months past, I have made frequent experiments with the Metallic Tractors; and have, with but very few exceptions, succeeded to my surprise in removing *rheumatisms, head-achs, pains in the face, spasmodic affections, and inflammatory swellings of the throat*. The pains, after having been once eased, have, in some instances, returned; and then, by a repetition of the applications, have been wholly removed. From my own practice, and what I know of the practice of others, I conceive this method of removing pains a very important and useful discovery in the healing art.

"With best wishes for your success in this Practice,

"I remain yours, &c.

"RUFUS JOHNSON."

REV. SAMUEL HOPKINS, D. D. of Newport, Rhode Island, Author of "*The System of Divinity*," and other Works.

August 17th, 1796.

"For twelve or fourteen years, Captain WILLIAM LADD, of Newport, had been frequently afflicted with severe paroxysms of

—*The Gout*—

In the fall of 1795 he had a violent attack of this disorder, which confined him to his room for five or six days. At this time, when his foot was very much swelled, inflamed, and in such extreme pain, especially his great toe, that he could not walk, nor set his foot on the floor, I called upon him, and operated on his foot, according to your directions. Within five minutes the pain and inflammation ceased, so that he walked with ease. The swelling within twenty-four hours subsided, so that he put on his shoe; and this foot in two days became as well as the other. The pain has twice returned since, but has been soon removed by the same application.

"Your friend, and humble servant,

"SAMUEL HOPKINS."

Extract of a Letter from the HON. OLIVER ELSWORTH, LL. D. Chief Justice of the United States, to the HON. JOHN MARSHALL, of Virginia, one of the late Envoys Extraordinary from the United States to the French Republic.

"Philadelphia, March 7th, 1797.

"Dear Sir,

"The gentleman who will deliver this Letter is Dr. PERKINS, of Connecticut, a respectable physician, and inventor of the Metallic Tractors, for the relief of pain. Strange as his hypothesis may be, experiments give it countenance.—In some cases, the effects wrought are not easily ascribable to imagination, great and delusive as is its power. Should there

F

be

be cases favourable for experiments in your vicinity, he would be ready to operate, and that in the presence of persons most competent to detect a fallacy, if there is one; or, on the other hand, to extend the improvement, if, in fact, a new principle is discovered. With great respect, I am, Sir, Your's, &c.

"OLIVER ELSWORTH."

Extract of a Letter from the REV. SAMUEL MAGAW, of Philadelphia, D. D. Fellow of, and Secretary to, the American Philosophical Society, &c. &c. to the RIGHT REV. JAMES MADDISON, Bishop of Virginia.

"Right Rev. Sir,

March 6th, 1797.

"This will introduce to your personal acquaintance a very respectable person, Dr PERKINS, of Connecticut, if, in the course of his journeying, he may visit Williamsburgh, and have it in his power to wait on Bishop Maddison. The Doctor, by a felicity of genius and investigation, has, it should seem, opened a highway to healing influences, which promises fair to constitute a new æra in the Medical Annals. His Metallic Tractors, their uses and efficacy, in a vast variety of cases, have gained him great celebrity; and I am disposed to think, even from what I have *known myself* of their deserts, a celebrity not precarious, unfounded, or fugitive.

"I have the honour to be, Sir, Your's, &c.

"SAMUEL MAGAW."

Extract of a Letter, dated February 8th 1799, from the REV. DR. SAMUEL STILLMAN, of Boston, in the United States, Fellow of Rhode Island College, &c. &c. Author of several literary Works; to his Friend the REV. DR. JOHN RIPPON, of Grange-Road, Borough, Southwark.

"The Metallic Tractors invented by Dr. PERKINS have already proved an important blessing to mankind. I have not time to inform you of the surprising

surprising cures I have wrought with them, in cases of *rheumatism, gout, contractions, pains in the head, inflammations in the eyes, face, &c.* but be assured they are many. Mr. PERKINS's residence in London will no doubt induce you to embrace the opportunity of giving the subject the attention it merits. I am, with high esteem,

"Rev. Sir,

"your assured friend,

"SAMUEL STILLMAN."

THE literary reader need not be informed respecting the worthy character who writes this letter; his writings render him well known beyond the limits of his own country. It would be ungrateful not to return my acknowledgments to Dr. RIPPON, for the philosopher-like candour with which he has treated the Metallic Practice, and expressed his conviction of its efficacy, since he has had an opportunity of witnessing its effects, in giving relief to a man severely afflicted with the ACUTE RHEUMATISM in the hand and foot.

PART III.

PROCEEDINGS ON THE SUBJECT OF DR. PERKINS'S DISCOVERY, BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSORS AT COPENHAGEN.

THE Metallic Practice is not limited to Great Britain and America, but is already adopted in different parts of Europe. At Copenhagen a regular enquiry into the merits of the discovery has been undertaken by several characters well known in the learned and philosophic world, which, from the importance that has been attached to it, has already

appeared in three different languages*; it may therefore be proper to give some account of it in this Tract. In the spring of the year 1798, some sets of Dr. Perkins's Tractors were carried from America to Copenhagen, together with a small pamphlet, published by the Discoverer, which contained the experiments and observations of several medical men of high character in the United States. This Tract accidentally fell into the hands of PROFESSORS HERHOLDT and RAHN, two very eminent Surgeons of Copenhagen, who having, by reputation, a knowledge of the characters of several of the American physicians therein mentioned, conceived the subject worthy of experimental investigation, and, as an inducement to others to assist them on the occasion, immediately had the American pamphlet translated into the Danish language. To this they added an address to all the eminent Physicians and Surgeons of Copenhagen, requesting them to receive the Tractors, and like real promoters of science, uninfluenced by prejudice or interest, to give them a fair trial.

One unfortunate circumstance, however, operated against the complete prosecution of this laudable undertaking. This was a want of proper directions for using the Tractors, as well as for pointing out the kind of diseases most subject to their influence. It happened that the paper of directions they received was the same that Dr. Perkins published, when he first announced the Discovery, which being then in its infancy, it could not be expected that so full and complete instructions could be given, as after the practice had met with a more extensive and varied experiment. The unfavourable influence of oily substances on the diseased part, the necessity of drawing the Tractors to the extremities, and several other

* Danish, German, and English.

other circumstances indispensably necessary to insure a successful application, were at that time unknown; and so imperfect a knowledge had they of the diseases proper for the remedy, that they tried it almost indiscriminately. Under such embarrassing circumstances it will not be a matter of surprise that they did not cure in every instance. They however did perform cures, and witnessed effects from the Tractors, which warranted them in concluding, that "*the arguments against Animal Magnetism would not apply to PERKINISM: that the Discovery was of importance to the healing art: and that it merited the thorough attention of physiologists.*"

The work published by Professors Herholdt and Rasm in the Danish language, containing the experiments at Copenhagen, has not been received in this country, but a translation of it into German, executed by PROFESSOR TODE, Physician to his Danish Majesty, I obtained a copy of, from Germany;—the title of which is as follows:

"Von dem Perkinismus oder den Metallnadeln des D. Perkins in Nord-Amerika, nebst Amerikanischen Zeugnissen, und Versuchen Kopenhagener Aerzte. Herausgegeben von den Herren Divisions Chirurgus Herholdt und Assessor Rasm. Auf dem Danischen Uebersetzt und mit Anmerkungen Begleitet von D. Johann Clemens Tode, der Arzneywissenschaft Ordentlichem Professor und Koniglichem Hofmedicus*

* *Metallnadeln*, or Metallic Needles. This term the Danish physicians, I suppose, gave them from their form. They use it during the whole course of their observations. In the translation I shall retain the English term *Metallic Tractors*.

TRANSLATION.

"On Perkinism", or the Metallic Tractors of Dr. Perkins of North America; with the American Testimonies, and Experiments of Physicians at Copenhagen. Published by M. Herholdt, Surgeon of Division, and M. Rafn, Assessor. Translated from the Danish into the German, and accompanied with Notes, by Dr. John Clemens Tode, Professor of Medicine, and Royal Physician. With one Plate. Copenhagen; printed by Frederic Brummer 1798."

As an entire translation of this book into the English language, by Mr. Kampfmüller, and edited by the Writer, with his notes, pointing out the causes of their unsuccessful cases, is already before the Public, I shall only give here a general account of the Cases, and the observations of the Danish Editors upon them. Previous to entering on the experiments, professors HERHOLDT and RAFN address the Public as follows:

"Having perused the American testimonies respecting the efficacy of the Metallic Tractors, and having seen it confirmed by so great a number of characters worthy of credit, some of whom are known to us, as enlightened physicians, and of great reputation, it was natural that this should awaken in us a desire of trying the experiments. The impotency of medicine in most of the diseases mentioned, and the reflection that PERKINISM was neither troublesome, or a very costly remedy, and that it did
not

* On the first mention of the term PERKINISM in the Danish pamphlet, M. HERHOLDT has this note, "*Ad modum Galvanicum*," viz. That like GALVANISM, they derive the term from the name of the Discoverer.

not occasion the least inconvenience, but on the contrary was said to afford relief "*cito, tuto, et jucunde*," were all motives to increase this desire. This induced us to inform our practising physicians of the contents of the pamphlet, to engage them to procure the Tractors, and to try their efficacy. Here follows the result of the experiments, so far as they have been communicated to us, and made by ourselves."

The first communication is from PROFESSOR SCHUMACHER, senior Surgeon in Frederic's Hospital, in which is detailed various trials with Dr. PERKINS's Tractors, and several other metals, as *Silver, Lead, Bismuth, Zinc, Brass, Iron and Copper*, on nine different subjects; one or two of these Cases shall be given.

CASE I.—*Acute Pain in the Knee.*

TOFTEGAARD, aged 31, lying in the sick room, letter I, had, on the 13th February, an acute pain in the right knee. All these several metals, except the Tractors, were applied. On the application of some of them he felt a burning pain to the toes, and afterwards relief. The points of ebony and ivory were tried; no such heat was then perceived. During the application there seemed some mitigation of pain, but it immediately returned *. The metals were used again, and afforded evident relief; and on being repeated daily, until the present 8th of March, (23 days) the disease is almost entirely gone.

* This case has been inaccurately stated by a very respectable literary Journal in this country, from an error in translating; and though it was corrected among the *errata* in the number for the next month, it has several times been quoted. Instead of stating that the pain soon returned in the knee, and was afterwards cured by the metals, it said "the ivory points cured the knee"

CASE II.—*Pterygium Inflammatorium.*

SINZE, in let. E, aged 25, had an inflamed film on the left eye, with pains in the face, but more particularly in her head. The various metals before mentioned were applied, from some of which she experienced benefit. On a trial of the points of ivory and ebony, the eye was for a moment easier; but soon it swelled, which was not observed on the application of the metals *.

CASE

* The opposers of the Tractors in America, at first asserted, that their effects were ascribable to the *imagination*; but on ascertaining that infants and persons in epileptic fits, where no imagination existed, were alike relieved, then it was said they were owing to the *mechanical irritation* of the points of the instruments. Relief they urged could be given by unconducting substances, as pointed ivory, &c. This mode of explanation proved equally erroneous; for, on enquiry, these patients were always found to be weak-minded and credulous, and their complaints of a nature that could not afford *ocular proof* of an alteration. On trying such pointed substances in acute inflammations, as in erysipelas, burns, scalds, inflammations of the eyes, &c. it was found that the disease, instead of being diminished, was increased. As in the inflamed eye above, the patient might be induced to say it was for a moment easier, yet the parts soon swelled, and became worse from their irritation. Thus the pains in the knee also, in Case I., is said to have been mitigated, but it soon returned, and was afterwards cured by the metals. The influence of fear is well known from the common occurrence of the cessation of pain in a tooth, when the terrific instrument for extracting it is presented to the view of the *alarmed sufferer*. This, however, is only observed in complaints.

CASE III.—*Pain in the Side and Head.*

LOUIS PAULSEN, in let. S. S. aged 38, had a violent pain in the left side and the back part of his head. He was PERKINISED with the Tractors only once, and the pain ceased, though some foreness remained a short time afterwards.

The second communication is from M. K LINBERG, Surgeon of Reserve in the Navy, and Candidate at Frederic's Hospital. He states that a lady, who was afflicted with a most

Violent Rheumatic Pain

in her hip, attended with great stiffness, received the operation of the Tractors, and was so much benefited "that she could tread upon the ground and even walk some steps, which she had not been able to do for nine weeks before."

The third communication is from Mr. N. C. B. STEFFENS, Surgeon, and Candidate at Frederic's Hospital. He states three cases. The first relates a relief of a SCIATICA, the second a NERVOUS HEAD-ACHE, and the third as follows:

CASE III.—*Nervous Head-Ache.*

"PROFESSOR SCHUMACHER applied the Tractors upon myself for a *nervous head-ache*. I will therefore, as well as I can, describe to you my sensations during the operation, and the effects I felt from it. The

complaints unattended with acute external inflammation; when, therefore, experiments are made to ascertain this point, they should not be tried on pains which may be *frightened away*, but in *real inflammatory diseases*.

The Professor conducted the Tractors from the temple to the hinder part of the head; after some minutes, it seemed to me as if the pain spread over the whole head. It centered afterwards in the frontal region; on applying the Tractors there, it changed into a heavy pain over both eyes, and in a quarter of an hour it entirely left me."

EXPERIMENTS WITH PERKINISM, ON THE PHYSICIANS SIDE OF FREDERIC'S HOSPITAL.

These are eleven in number, and stated by F. L. BANG, M. D. professor and first physician to the hospital. Among others are the following cases :

CASE I. Gouty Affection.

"MARIA, aged 29, had for more than a year *gouty pains*, which were increased at night, and a preternatural excrescence [exostoses] on both shins. After having applied, for four weeks, mercurials, internally and externally, and at last the *hunger cure**, the pain confined itself solely to the exostoses on the shins, where it was almost insupportable. PERKINISM was tried, and during the operation the pain was considerably increased, but ceased almost entirely half an hour after. The experiment has been repeated four times with the same success, and also a great abatement of the exostoses."

CASE II. Pains in the Hip.

"JOSEPH, aged 49, came into the hospital the 10th of February. He had *violent pains in the left hip*, which

* "I am not acquainted with this HUNGERKUR, but presume it is some system of starvation in use in Copenhagen; as it has been asserted formerly, that a strict adherence to a plan of this kind would cure the venereal disease." Translator.

which extended all over the exterior part of the leg and thigh, and were so insupportable, that the patient could not put his foot on the ground. They always increased at night; but the first cause of his illness he ascribed to an effort in lifting.

“Without employing any other remedy the Tractors were tried. From the commencement of the experiments, the patient was eased; and with the constant daily use, the pain at last disappeared entirely in the hip, and descended to the leg and foot, where, according to his declaration, it continues to diminish so far that he can very well walk about. The places in the hip and the thigh, which the Tractors touched, turned quite white, and with this change of colour the pain went off.

Experiments by MR. HAHN, Surgeon of Division.

CASE I.—*Rheumatic Pains.*

An elderly lady had, for about eight days, suffered much from *rheumatic pains* in both her shoulders. By my prescription, Dr. PERKINS's Metallic Tractors were applied to her by a girl, and the pain was so much lessened, that she has not since required any medicine.

REMARKS ON THE THEORY OF PERKINISM:

Communicated to Surgeon HERHOLDT, by P. C. ABILDGAARD, M. D. Secretary to the Royal Academy of Sciences at Copenhagen, Professor of Natural History, and first Lecturer in the Veterinary College.

“You wish for an account of my Experiments with Dr. PERKINS's Tractors. Those which I have hitherto had time and opportunity to make, are so few in number, and so little instructive, that they scarce deserve to be noticed. I shall therefore first communicate to you my thoughts on the physical impor-

tance of this discovery, and the reasons which determined me, on becoming acquainted with its merits, to consider it as a subject deserving a fair investigation ; and not to be rejected, because we cannot immediately see the connexion between the cause and effect in this operation. But not to be misled by too great zeal for every thing which may contribute to the improvement of human knowledge, and particularly to that which enables us to alleviate the pain and diseases of suffering humanity, we ought * not yet to be too confident in our belief that Dr. PERKINS'S Tractors, considered as medical remedies, will acquire that great and important value ; or whether they will possess the merit of being much more than a palliative to diseases. But even if we consider this discovery merely in a philosophical view, it deserves the thorough attention of medical men, and particularly that of physiologists.

“ It is singular, that in physic many remedies are daily employed, the good effect of which is no otherwise warranted, than that they have not *bindered* the cure of the patient ; and though it is notorious, that in many diseases the sum of twenty or thirty rix-dollars is often expended for *medicines*, which altogether have not so much effect upon the human body as one *good dinner* ; and that though we scarce know the true physical cause of the effect of one of the thousand remedies which are employed, yet we are in general so unreasonable as to use new medicines, solely
because

* We cannot suppose that the Professor, by this observation, meant to convey the idea, that in order to a proper investigation of a new doctrine, one should absolutely be prejudiced against it ; but only, that some caution is necessary, that we do not subscribe to its merits before they are thoroughly proved.

because they agree, either in reality or imagination, in some measure with those hitherto known *.

“ As we are accustomed to employ *roots, herbs, salts, &c.* as remedies, nothing more is required to put all the physicians of Europe in motion, than that a new root, herb, or salt be recommended, as particularly efficacious in some disease; and yet repeated experience teaches, that very little would be lost if all the new remedies of *that kind* which have come into use these last thirty years, had remained unknown. These considerations, however, carry me beyond what I proposed at the present time; I shall therefore stop, and communicate to you, in a few words, my thoughts on the physical effect of Dr. PERKINS'S Tractors on the animal body.

“ It is known, that all bodies which evaporate become electrified, generally negatively, but sometimes positively; and that the vapour is in the first case positively, and in the last negatively electrified; consequently it must be the same with the animal body, where the exhalation is constant, though, for well known reasons, it cannot be observed, but by artificial and very nice experiments. Hence it follows, that if a person holds the point of a Metallic Tractor against the surface of the body of another person,

* It is a very common thing for some medical men, to affect not to employ any remedies in their practice, unless they understand their *modus operandi*; when at the same time, as Professor ABILDGAARD justly observes, the manner of the action of a great proportion of medicines in daily use is totally unknown. As satisfactory an explanation can be given of the physical operation of the Tractors in removing pains, as of *mercury* in curing the *syphilis*, of *opium* in procuring sleep, &c.; and yet many will reject the former, even in opposition to facts, because they cannot comprehend the *theory* of their action!

person, and they are both at that moment either negatively or positively electrified, no effect is produced; but if they have electricities opposite to one another, then the electricities will be either removed or diminished in both, and therefore in both an alteration will happen.

“ Now suppose, for example, that a person who has the gout in a part of his body, through a want of perspiration in that part, it becomes positively electrified, while in the mean time the other perspiring parts of the body are negatively electrified; it follows, that this diseased part would have its equilibrium of electricity restored, by means of the distribution of the negative electricity in the body to the positive, which is the part diseased: or, supposing the negative electricity of the body had so much intensity that it could communicate its overplus to the diseased part, the gout would probably be removed. Supposing, again, that a person in health, who is negatively electrified, holds the point of a Tractor towards this diseased part, which was just said to have its equilibrium of electricity restored, yet, without touching it, he will by this excite positive electricity in the diseased part; but if he touches the part with the Tractor, he will communicate to it his own negative electricity, and thus in both cases excite electricity in the part diseased. This is, in brief, my opinion of the matter.

“ Against this explanation, of the cause of the effects of Dr. PERKINS'S Tractors, may be objected, that as the animal body is a conductor, it could not become electrical unless it was insulated: but against this objection I shall only alledge three phenomena, which are partly known, and partly very easy to try, and which invalidate entirely this objection. One is, that in water itself, which is an excellent conductor, electrical fish can produce very strong electrical shocks. The second is, that in the Galvanic

vanic experiments, where two pieces of metals are put upon a naked muscle, no effect is produced until these two pieces of metal either touch one another immediately, or are brought into conjunction with a fourth conductor. Here the animal body is not a sufficient conductor. The third instance is, where a piece of zink is put upon the surface of the tongue, and a piece of gold or silver on the other; and brought either immediately into contact with one another, or through the medium of a third metal, the strong electrical taste, as known, is perceived on the tongue; but, on the contrary, if the finger be used as a conductor between the two metals, the electrical taste is not perceived, even if the finger be wet.

“ I have besides made another experiment, which deserves to be remarked, and which proves, that Dr. PERKINS's Tractors, even in consequence of their *form*, act differently from metals of any other shape. If in the known experiment to excite a flash in the eye, by putting a *plate* of zink between the cheek and teeth, on one side of the mouth, and a silver or gold *plate* on the other, and bringing them into immediate contact, you make use of zink of the *shape of a Tractor* on one side, and one of gold or silver on the other, instead of the *plates*, and bring them into contact, no flash is produced. It is also the same when you bring two plates into contact with one another, by means of the *Metallic Tractors*.—If, on the contrary, you employ for the experiment a *plate* of zink on one side of the mouth, and a gold, silver, or iron, of the shape of a *Tractor*, on the other, and bring them into contact, only a very slight flash is perceived.

It is evident how much knowledge we still require to be able to determine, what in each given case can and must happen in regard to the change of electricity in the human body. Too little attention has hitherto

hitherto been paid to the important part which electricity acts in the animal œconomy. It is undoubtedly possible to obtain, by suitable experiments, more light on this interesting subject; but for this purpose another SANTORINUS is necessary. Among many other things, one would, without doubt, also learn, that our beds have an effect upon the body, which is not indifferent, and which has not hitherto been duly considered. They have an influence on the functions of the body, not only in so far as they keep it more or less warm, but even in regard to electricity. He who sleeps or rests on a feather bed, or hair-mattress, is in an insulated state, if the bed and linen are perfectly dry: the contrary takes place if they are damp.

“Here follow my Experiments with Dr. PERKINS'S Tractors.

I. If the point of these Tractors is held towards the tongue of different persons, yet without touching it, they generally declare they feel a partly sour and partly metallic taste.

II. In passing the point of the Tractors over the face of different persons, without touching them, some feel a kind of crawling, others a prickling sensation, and some are not acted upon at all.

III. I directed the point of the Tractors towards different parts of the face of a lady of a very irritable habit, whose eyes were blinded, and she could always tell me near which part of the face the Tractor was. Two others, of less sensibility, on whom I made the same experiment, did not so distinctly perceive this effect.

IV. I am subject to a pain in the knees, after sitting still for a long time. I have three times removed this pain, first from one, and then from the other knee, by sticking Dr. PERKINS'S Tractors through the breeches, one on each side of the knee, so that the points touched the skin.

V. A mar-

V. A married lady, aged 29, who had been the whole winter subject to *rheumatic pains* in the head, and tried different remedies without success, begged me to try the *sticks* as she called them. I held the iron coloured Tractor, without touching her, towards the temples, where she then felt the pain, and after some minutes she assured me, with great joy, that it was gone; yet a quarter of an hour after she felt it in the eye of the same side. I moved the point of the Tractor [*der Nadel*] * only, for a minute over the eye, when that was also gone. —Later in the evening she complained however again of some pain in the temples, but in a much less degree. —The next day she still felt some remains of it, and wanted to try again the effect of the Tractors, They were now drawn over in contact with the part, and it ceased. —Four days have since passed, and she has been mostly free from pain, and only had sensations

* The Monthly Review, with the same disposition it displayed in misrepresenting the cases in my former treatise on "*The Influence of Metallic Tractors*;" noticed in the "Preliminary Observations," has, in a late critique on this Danish publication, taken the liberty to translate this a "*nail*." —The word *nagel*, a nail, it is true is used above; but it was so evident to the translator of this work to be an error of the press that he translated it the "iron-colored Tractor," for in this place, speaking of the repetition of the application, the words "*der Nadel*," the needle, or Tractor is *expressly* used. —The critic will undoubtedly claim his right to entertain what opinion he pleases, on the first mention of the term; but, to translate *der Nadel* (the word which, through the whole book, is used to signify *Tractor*) a nail, is a liberty which was not expected, even from the Monthly Review.

tions of it in a much slighter degree than formerly*.

MR. CHARLES GODLOB RAFF, *Surgeon and Ass't for General in the Commercial and OEconomical College.*

CASE.—*Rheumatism.*

“ Among the various experiments I have made with PERKINISM, one on my own person is most satisfactory.—After having been three days tormented with a rheumatic pain in my back, which daily increased in violence, I determined to try the effects of Dr. PERKINS'S Metallic Tractors. The application was made in a room of the temperature of between ten and twelve degrees of Reaumur, and at a time when my pain was very violent. After having operated with them for five or six minutes, partly with each of the Tractors alternately, and partly with both at once, the pain disappeared entirely, and I have not felt any since.

“ This rheumatic pain produced a sensation like a contraction in the cellular membrane. I could

* Electricity and Galvanism are now just enough involved in mystery to afford an ingenious theorist an ample field for expatiating on the principle of this metallic operation. The opinion of this learned professor, so well known in the philosophic world for his discoveries in Electricity, will by many be highly regarded.—For my own part, however, I must observe, that as theories on almost every operation in nature, and especially on medical subjects, are generally as various as the ingenious individuals who give them, I shall confine myself to what I conceive of more importance, viz. FACTS; articles more substantial in their nature, and useful in their tendency. While facts remain, it is hoped that some few may be found, who allow the metallic practice to possess a *little merit*, if the principle of its operation is not thoroughly developed.

observe

observe at each stroke of the Tractors a kind of relaxation and yielding in the places where they touched. I did not perceive the usual burning, but only a titillation from their irritation. The skin, however, grew red, and much warmer than the other parts of my body, yet without sweat. I neglected to observe the degree of heat by the thermometer.

“ Three weeks after I repeated the same operation for as long a time, and on the same place, which was quite well, and free from pain. The skin neither grew red, or warmer, nor did I feel that relaxation in the cellular membrane, which I observed on the first trial. The pain also, in the former experiment, became evidently greater in the place where each stroke of the Tractor terminated, but in this case nothing of that kind was observed. Other persons, on whom I have applied the Tractors, have had the same sensation.

EXPERIMENTS OF PROFESSOR HERHOLDT.

“ From the trials I have made, I find PERKINISM, like all other remedies, is indeterminate and relative in its effects. The practical physician, in the present state of our experience, cannot *with certainty* predict the event of every application. A circumstance favourable to PERKINISM is, that if it is not attended with success, it appears to be incapable of doing harm. I shall quote, of many, only a few experiments.

“ A girl, about 19 years of age, had for some days a

Fixed Gouty Affection in the Hand and Fingers.

I applied the Tractors. In a quarter of an hour the pain and inflammation were gone, and the fingers as pliable as her other hand. She sat immediately down to sewing, and, to the astonishment of many persons, has been able from that time, which is now five weeks since, to use her hand as well as ever.”

CASE

CASE—*Pain and Stiffness in the Neck.*

"A man 45 years of age, on the 4th of March, in the night, was seized with a fixed pain in the nape of the neck, which would not permit him to move the head. In the morning his wife applied Dr. PERKINS'S Tractors, and in half an hour he was perfectly cured."

CASE—*Strangury.*

"Another man, 30 years of age, had a *gonorrhœa*, the discharge from which was checked by bad treatment, and he suffered from a *strangury*. I advised him to draw the Tractors lightly on the skin along the urethra. During the application the matter flowed freely, and in a quarter of an hour the pain very much diminished. He was afterwards cured of the gonorrhœa by the usual remedies."—

[If PERKINISM has no influence in venereal diseases; and if, on the contrary, it appears, by various experiments, that it mitigates the symptoms of a common gonorrhœa, this might perhaps be another proof against the identity of those two poisons.]—

"Besides these experiments, to which I have myself been witness, I am authorized to state, that Dr. J. BANG, Physician at Soroe, with two hundred strokes of the Tractors, has cured, to the joy and astonishment of many, a gentleman of rank, who was afflicted with a *violent gouty pain in his lip*."—

To these succeed some experiments in the common hospital at Copenhagen, reported by M. JACOBSON, Surgeon of the hospital: among which is the following

CASE of *Epilepsy.*

"BARBARA, aged 34, had an *epileptic fit* some years since, on seeing a great fire, with which however she had not been attacked again until the 25th of March,

March, when, in consequence of another fire, which she saw through a window, she was seized a second time. Since this she has had several convulsive fits in the hospital, and which indeed always came on whenever she saw another patient in convulsions.

" March 30th. She complained of a violent *pain on one side of the head*, and also a *pain in the left armpit*. The Tractors were applied down along her cheek. During the operation she felt a moving of the pain after the Tractors, and it became less violent. In the afternoon the pain had considerably increased, and lasted till midnight, accompanied with a perspiration. The 31st, the Tractors were applied from the *armpit* down as far as the *fore arm*, because she complained of a very violent pain in that part. She immediately found relief there also. Towards evening again the pains increased*, and were attended with a numbness in the thumb, and profuse sweating, after which, however, she was easier. The next day, 1st of April, PERKINISM was repeated. The relief then given was permanent, for since that time [fourteen days] she has not complained of the least pain."

* Here an egregious error was committed, by not repeating the use of the Tractors at evening, when those severe pains came on. Although she was perfectly cured after three days application, she would not have had occasion to use the Tractors, even the second day, had they been faithfully applied on the first evening, and extended along the arms to the ends of the fingers, and especially to that thumb in which they had caused a numbness.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE DANISH EDITORS,

PROFESSORS HERHOLDT AND RAPN,

*On Perkinism,**Resulting from the foregoing Experiments.*

" These are the most important experiments which, to our knowledge, have been made in Copenhagen, and the opinions of our first philosophers on this remedy. The general attention which it attracted, not only of physicians, but other characters also conversant in natural history, and the desire we observed in both to obtain a knowledge of the effects the Tractors had produced in America, prompted us to publish immediately what we knew of the subject; otherwise we should have waited patiently for the time when a greater number of experiments, and a more thorough investigation, could have brought the subject to still greater maturity.

" Through this early publication, we gain so much at least, that medical men will be better instructed in the manner of using the Tractors; and obtain a hint in what diseases PERKINISM, either in America or Denmark, has been most efficacious; and from these statements they will be enabled to judge with more correctness of the real merits of this remedy. On the whole, PERKINISM derives an advantage from this, that our experiments have not been made with a view of confirming any favourite theory, or of supporting an invented hypothesis.

" We do not find it possible to apply with any justice against PERKINISM, the arguments and doubts which have been raised against ANIMAL MAGNETISM; for instance, those in M. DAVIDSON'S letter to M. BIESTER, the Librarian at Berlin, against the recent experiments of Dr. PEZOLD, contained in REIL'S Archives of Physiology. If the experiments at Copenhagen have not all had that complete success which attended those in America,

rica, they have however demonstrated to our satisfaction, that there is a great deal of reality at bottom, and that PERKINISM is of importance to the Physician; and, as ABILDGAARD has justly observed, "merits particularly the thorough attention of the Physiologist."

The Editors next make some desultory observations on the theory of this metallic operation, which they think, all will agree, must be explained on the principles, either of *mechanical stimulus, electricity, galvanism, or imagination*; but that from the infant state of the practice, the *modus operandi* is not yet completely developed.

They however remark, that "the observations which Professor ABILDGAARD has communicated, induce us to find the theory, which with his usual sagacity he has given, extremely probable. The effects which he produced," say they, "cannot be ascribed to a mechanical irritation, as the Tractors did not come into contact with the skin. That a mechanical impression on the nerves might be attended with some effects, under certain particular circumstances, appears possible; but the Professor's experiments, and others, prove that PERKINISM does not act merely by its irritation."

PART IV.

EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS.

THE salutary effects of the Tractors on the human subject, must naturally suggest, to reflecting minds, the probability of their being also useful in many diseases of the Brute Creation.

In America, where this Practice originated, the experiments on animals were not so numerous as perhaps might be expected, considering the high reputation

putation which it has acquired. Dr. PERKINS, from the time he first announced the discovery, was constantly employed in the Practice on the human subject; and, excepting in a few accidental cases, he had no leisure or opportunity to give experiments on animals the attention they merited. The few trials, however, that were made on that side of the Atlantic, in some topical complaints of Horses, attended with pain and inflammation, were in most instances completely successful. **SPRAINS** and **CONTUSIONS** were cured in a very short time by the Metallic Practice. The small, but very painful tumours, which often arise under the saddle, vulgarly called **SADDLE BOILS**, were also very readily removed by this application. One case of

A Sprain in the Pastern,

which came under my own observation in America, is too important to be omitted. An Horse, by some accident in the stall, received a severe sprain in the pastern joint, which rendered him extremely lame. From the intense heat of the hoof on that foot, and the peculiar actions of the animal, he was supposed to be in great pain.

I began by drawing the Tractors from about five inches above the pastern, and conducting them down to the hoof, taking care to bear on the points of the Tractors sufficiently to keep them continually in contact with the skin. In a few minutes the hot hoof was reduced to about the same temperature as the other. From being scarcely able to put his foot to the ground, he became so much better, from the use of the Tractors, that in about twelve minutes a gentleman mounted him and rode him away, scarcely perceiving his lameness.—

The numerous avocations necessarily attached to my other practice, since my residence in this country, have totally precluded the possibility of doing justice

justice to any experiments on animals, and in consequence I have not attempted them; for the same reason I have not been able personally to comply with an invitation from the ingenious Mr. MOORCROFT, Surgeon of the Veterinary Hospital, to use the Tractors in that place, though very contrary to my wishes. A few other gentlemen, however, more at leisure, have tried the Tractors in several cases. These experiments they were the more readily induced to make, from a wish to ascertain the validity of a *hacknied* argument, which the enemies to the Metallic Practice, with more zeal than discretion, have urged against it, viz. that many of the cures ascribed to the influence of the Tractors could be effected by the imagination. The relieving of a horse, it should seem, would be conclusive on this head; unless these ingenious sceptics can also prove, that that quadruped possesses, in common with mankind, an equal brilliancy of imagination; that his *intellectual endowments* are not inferior to our own; and that the *anima rationalis*, hitherto considered as one of the distinguishing attributes of man, is also equally apparent in the brute.

Some of the following pages shall be appropriated to such experiments as have been communicated.

In Surgeon LANGWORTHY's Tract, which we have already had occasion to notice, we have some observations on this subject, and an account of one experiment at Bath, which he introduces as follows:

"From the morbid affections to which man is by nature liable, the transition is natural, in the eyes of the philosopher, to such animals as contribute to the use and comfort of society. No one can doubt of the excellence, in this respect, of that noble animal the Horse. If a more rational and methodical treatment of this quadruped has engaged the attention of the first characters of the nation, who have lately

G

patronised

patronised an hospital establishment at Somers Town, near London, is it not natural, by fair induction, to endeavour to ascertain how far this animal can be affected by our Metallic Powers. The following instance will probably appear to deserve the attention of many.

"A HORSE of N. A. VIGORS, Esq. of St. James's Square, Bath, in landing from one of the Holyhead packets, some months since, received from the pulley-ropes

An Injury in his Gambrel,

which produced a great degree of swelling, extending from that part down to the pastern, and up to his belly. This swelling took place, notwithstanding he was put under the care of skilful farriers in Bath, who applied various ointments without any effect. At length Mr. VIGORS purchased a set of the Tractors, and immediately applied them in the presence of many spectators, who, in a few minutes, expressed their surprise on seeing the swelling abate. The Tractors were used five times only, when the swelling was entirely removed. He has continued well ever since, and has performed his regular hunting. It is now six weeks since the Tractors were first applied."

The following statement, which the Author has received from a character of great respectability, will be very satisfactory to those who have the honour of his acquaintance.

JOHN DICKENSON, ESQ. OF LEIGHTON-HOUSE,
LEIGHTON-BUZZARD, BEDFORDSHIRE, TO THE
AUTHOR,

CASE—Severe Contusions.

"A Hunter of mine was discovered one morning, about the middle of September last, to have broken one of the reins belonging to her halter. She was much bruised about the head. In many places the

hair was rubbed off, her hocks were much swollen, and she was very stiff and lame. It was concluded, that in rubbing her head with her hind-foot, one of the reins had been caught, so as to draw her legs together; that from the natural exertions of the animal to liberate herself, the rein, which was new and strong, broke, and that in consequence she fell with great violence against the pillar of the stall, by which the hocks, and the muscles on one side leading to the back (which perhaps I do not describe scientifically), were severely bruised. I applied spirits of wine and Goulard, equal parts, without any apparent effect. In three days there appeared two large swellings, one above the hip-bone near the tail, and the other upon the rump, each as large as my two hands, and so hard as not to yield to pressure. I applied the same mixture again, and hot fomentations, without any effect. The next day another swelling, equal in size to those before mentioned, arose on the stifle, which was also much inflamed and swollen. The mare seemed to have for considerable a degree of fever, and heaved so violently in the flanks, that it was supposed she would die. We then tried bleeding, from which she was somewhat relieved, but we could not observe that the swellings were at all abated on the following day.

“Having witnessed the good effects of the Tractors on the human body, in cases of inflammation, I determined to try them on this animal. They were accordingly applied to the diseased parts, and drawn to the extremities; in the course of twenty-four hours we observed a very great reduction of the swellings. On the second day I attended the operations myself twenty minutes, during which time I *could perceive* the swellings subside, and the parts became cooler. My groom, as may naturally be supposed, had but little faith in the efficacy of two small pieces of pointed metals, nevertheless he expressed

pressed his surprize and conviction of the cure that was gradually performing by the Tractors. After continuing their use three times a day, for four days, the swellings were entirely reduced, and in the place where the largest was, above the hip-bone, there appeared a loss of flesh nearly equal to the former extension. In a fortnight this began to fill up, and in three weeks after the accident happened, the mare performed a journey of one-hundred-and-fifty miles in four days, and has been perfectly well ever since. It may be proper to observe, that from the time the Tractors were first used, all other remedies were laid aside.

(Signed)

"JOHN DICKENSON."

"Leighton-House, 18th Nov. 1798."

Since the date of the above report, Mr. DICKENSON has informed me of two other cures performed by the Tractors on his horses; but not having received from him a written account of these cases, the reader must be contented with the brief mention which is made of them in the following communication.

Mr. JOHN GRANT, whose experiments on the human body the reader has already noticed, [see page 29.] has also made several trials on animals, the result of which he obligingly communicated. The experiments of this gentleman having been made with much judgment and accuracy of observation, his reports are rendered particularly interesting. The following is an extract of a letter, dated

"Leighton Buzzard, 4th Month 20th, 1799.

"Respected Friend,

"In a former letter, I intimated my intention of communicating to thee, the result of some experiments on animals, which have fallen under my own observation. I have now an additional inducement for executing my promise, from a conviction arising
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from the best of evidence, that, on a *proper* trial, this Metallic Practice will be found of extensive utility to dealers and those who have an interest in cattle. My first trial among my own Horses was for

An Affection in the Eyes,

in a three years old colt. The near eye appeared to be failing very rapidly ; indeed I apprehended it had already advanced to that state from which it could never be reclaimed. I drew the Tractors along on the edge of the eye-lids, down the cheek, for twenty minutes. The effect astonished me. The inflammation abated. A film, which covered nearly the whole eye, was in the course of a few days removed, and the eye became clear. Not long after this the other eye failed. The Tractors were applied as before, and with the same success. There is a natural defect in the eyes of this animal, which no remedy will remove, and which may eventually terminate in blindness. It is now three months since these applications were made, and the eye yet remains good. The effect produced in this case is certainly worthy of notice. If the use of so important an organ as the eye of a valuable animal, can be prolonged for only one year, by so easy a remedy, it is surely worth our trial."

A Wound in the Eye from a Blow.

"One of my Waggon Horses had a stroke in the eye with the lash of a waggon whip. I at first apprehended the eye was lost. This however appearing not to be the fact, we drew the Tractors around it, as in the former case; and with only two operations the horse was cured."

"A gentleman of this town had the Tractors tried on one of his Horses, which was very lame from a

Sprain in the back Sinews.

After using them three or four times, and devoting about thirty minutes to each operation, a perfect cure was effected."

A punctured Tendon.

"Another Horse, belonging to the same person, received a wound in a tendon, from a thorn running into it, which occasioned much inflammation, pain, and lameness. This was also cured by the application of the Tractors."

"I have witnessed the good effects of the Metallic Practice in several other cases, where partial inflammations had fallen on various parts of the body of Horses, particularly the legs, thighs, &c. occasioned either by improper feeding or want of exercise, and termed by farriers, "*humours*." I have seen inflammations abated, and tumours reduced so effectually in these cases, by drawing the Tractors over the inflamed and swelled parts, as to supersede the necessity of fomentations, embrocations, &c. &c. the usual remedies on such occasions. Should the horse be of a full habit, I would not omit bleeding. I have further noticed their good effects, when applied near the sides of wounds. The four appearances I have observed to become changed, and a disposition to heal facilitated. I could relate a variety of these cases from my own minutes, and corroborate them with similar ones observed by my friends and acquaintances.

"My principal object in furnishing thee with these particulars is, that a remedy so innocent in its operation, so convenient, and which my experiments authorize me to say, so efficacious, might be more generally known, and that others might only make the trials and judge for themselves. So fully am I convinced, from what I have witnessed, of the preference they claim, as a remedy for recent sprains,

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contusions, inflammations, &c. to the means which are usually employed in those cases, that I have no hesitation in recommending them, firmly believing they will be found to answer our most sanguine expectations, provided they are applied with judgment and *perseverance*. The simplicity of the application has often induced me to place them in the hands of a rustic lad, who, I have found, can use them as advantageously as myself.

"I am sorry I cannot inform thee that equal success has attended my experiments on some other animals, on which I have tried them. For several diseases of SHEEP I have applied them without any effect. In the complaint termed by the shepherds the *joint evil*, I have never been able to observe the least advantage from the use of the Tractors. In two or three cases, however, of inflammation of the udder, we have observed a diminution of the inflammation from their use. The inefficacy of the Tractors upon sheep, was at first a matter of much surprize with me. It seemed very extraordinary, that a remedy, whose effects in the diseases of the human species and the horse are capable of being made so extremely evident, should not also have the same influence in the diseases of sheep, more especially as it is found in the Galvanic experiments, that all animals are subject to the influence of metals, when applied to their denuded nerves and muscles. But after reflecting much on this subject, the cause of this difference has at length occurred to me. Provident nature has very bountifully supplied the body of the sheep with an *unctuous* and *oily* fluid, doubtless to promote the rapid growth of the wool, and defend it from the wet. This animal, justly esteemed one of the most valuable in the world, is yearly robbed of its wool; and as the second growth of this covering is supported by the oily matter, a greater quantity becomes necessary for that purpose. Now we find from experience, that all unctuous

bodies resist the Metallic Influence. Even pomatum applied to the hair, it is well ascertained, prevents the Tractors from relieving pains in that part of the head over which the pomatum is used: we therefore can easily conceive that the body of the sheep, which is constantly clothed with this oily matter, cannot be acted upon by them. In the inflammation of the udder of a sheep, where this fluid is not so abundant, the Metallic Practice, we find, was thought to be of use, by abating the inflammation; and this I apprehend would have taken place more effectually, had the udder been previously washed with warm water and wiped clean, a practice which I would recommend previous to all operations with the Tractors. In many cases I have found the perspirable matter issuing from bodies prevent any effect from the Metallic application, and on removing that obstacle, relief would be immediately obtained.

“How far these facts coincide with those which have been noticed by other persons, who have given the Tractors an extensive trial, thou wilt be best enabled to judge. As my remarks are the result of considerable experience, and pretty attentive observation, I have no objection to their being made public, if thou thinkest they may be of use, by inducing others to make similar trials, and thereby enable them to judge for themselves. With my best wishes for a continuance of thy success, in alleviating the sufferings of humanity, I remain thy assured friend,

JOHN GRANT.”

Previous to the receipt of Mr. GRANT's communication of his experiment on Animals, it was my intention to have made particular mention of the inefficacy of the Tractors on SHEEP, and to have assigned the same reasons which Mr. G. has adduced; but his observations totally preclude the necessity of enlarging further on that subject at present; it may however be proper merely to add, that other ingenious and

and observing persons, who have tried the Tractors on Sheep, have represented that their success has not been so great on that animal as on Horses, whose bodies are dryer, and less liable to be covered with unctuous matter.

MR. THOMAS KEEN OF WARWICK-STREET LONDON, *having also made trial of the Tractors on his Horses, has obligingly favoured me with the results, as follows:—*

“ London, 7th Mo. 24th, 99.

“ Esteemed Friend,

“ I can have no objection to thy publishing my experiments with the Tractors on Horses, if it can afford thee or the public any advantage. My first trial was upon an Aged Horse, that for many years had been subject to

Severe Inflammations about his Ankles and Feet.

“ The Tractors were used, when the parts were in a high state of disease, the whole surface, from some inches above the hoof, being extremely inflamed and tender, and there was very evidently produced a considerable abatement of the inflammation. This relief was given, notwithstanding the weather, at the time when the application was made, was extremely cold, and of course very unfavourable to the complaint. Being obliged to send this horse into the country, I had not an opportunity of continuing the practice, and effecting the cure.—But the case which afforded the most decisive evidence, occurred in a Waggon-Horse, that received a

Very severe Contusion

in the lower part of his *Sternum*, or his breast-bone, from a fall. The parts became highly tumefied, and the animal in consequence extremely lame. A farrier was employed, who made use of several remedies, but without any reduction of the tumefaction or lameness. In this state of the complaint, the Tractors

Tractors were had recourse to, and after cleansing the parts from the oily and greasy substances, which had been used, they were drawn over the swelling, and extended down the arm of the leg. The effects of their application were very soon perceived, both by the removal of a great part of his lameness, and by the reduction of the tumor. As the use of the Tractors was repeated, the horse continually derived benefit. Matter being already formed, when they were first applied, the tumefaction could not be entirely dispersed, until this was discharged. The horse has been in perfect health ever since. We think we can observe a little stiffness in the leg which was lame, but this is not so considerable as to injure the animal, and indeed it is hardly perceptible.

"The success of the Tractors in these cases, has induced me to commence a course of experiments on a valuable horse of mine, in danger of losing both his eyes from great inflammation and weakness. The complaint had been coming on for a long time, and the eyes were already nearly lost. As I have just began, I cannot yet inform thee of the result, but I have a pleasure in saying, the prospects are favourable. The eye upon which I have applied them most, is evidently amended."

The Author has been made acquainted with several other trials of the Tractors on Horses, which have been attended with equal success to those already cited; but as written statements of these have not been communicated for publication, he cannot take the liberty of detailing them.

One case in particular of

An Enlargement and Lameness in the Knee.

of a Horse in the possession of a Baronet, is very important, and he regrets that the absence of the owner, who performed the cure himself, deprives him of the opportunity of presenting his statement to the public. This lameness and enlargement had been of six months

months duration, and was cured in four days by the frequent use of the Tractors.

As far as the experiments have gone, I am authorized in declaring, that the Metallic application has proved equally efficacious on Horses as on the Human Body. Those, who may be disposed to extend the benefit of the Tractors to the brute creation, will undoubtedly see the propriety of discriminating between diseases which are proper for the Metallic Practice, and those which are of a different description. On this head, the operator will be best instructed by attending to what has already been said on the diseases of the human body. Such as correspond with these may expect similar effects. Those complaints that arise, as it were, from an hereditary disposition, as is the fact in some horses, it is hardly necessary to remark, will not find a permanent cure in the Tractors: but recent topical affections attended with great pain, will be found most subject to the Metallic Influence. The judgment of the operator must be employed in ascertaining the presence of pain. In this he will be assisted by remarking the peculiar actions of the animal, and particularly by observing, whether there is an unusual degree of heat, and a turgidness of the blood vessels on the parts. If the disease is seated in the limbs, a lameness generally attends. Too much attention cannot be paid to cleanliness, and rendering the part, which is destined for the operation, perfectly free from all oily and greasy substances. As sheep are generally covered with unctuous matter, we must not expect to do them so much service as other animals. When performing the application, unless from extreme inflammation the parts are very tender, the Tractors should be drawn harder over the skin than on the human body, always observing, that the point of the instrument be introduced through the hair.

A P P E N D I X.

THE following Cases were received after these sheets were printed off. Their importance warrants an insertion of them in this place.

Report of Experiments with Perkins's Patent Metallic Tractors in the Public Dispensary of Sunderland, County of Durham.—Copied from the Minute-Book by MR. EDGAR the Apothecary, and approved by DR. BROWN, Physician to the Institution.

THOMAS BROWN, *Æ.* 8, recommended by Mr. HEURTLEY, admitted May 30th 1799.—T. BROWN, Physician.

Violent Pain in the Head, occasioning Delirium.

June 1st. The Tractors were applied 11 minutes during which time the pain gradually diminished.—It was likewise observed that the florid colour in his face disappeared.—2d. The pain not so violent as yesterday. He says he had a better day than he has experienced for some time; used the Tractors 10 minutes; the pain totally left him.—3d. A slight return this morning, which was relieved as before.—4th. The application being repeated 15 minutes, he found himself perfectly easy. N. B. The delirium ceased after the first application.—Dismissed cured.

JOHN HILL, *Æ.* 69, recommended by Mr. HUTTON, admitted June 10th 1799.—A. SCOTT, Physician.

A severe Chronic Rheumatism in the Left Shoulder.

June 11th. The Tractors were applied in a direction from his shoulder to his wrist 5 minutes, during which

which time the pains considerably lessened. The operations were daily continued until the 18th, when he found himself perfectly well.—Dismissed cured.

GEORGE DICKSON, *Æ.* 24, recommended by Mr. WYLAM, admitted July 4th 1799.—T. BROWN, Physician.

Inflammation of the Eye, and violent Pain in both Arms.

July 5th. Operated upon the eye 12 minutes; the inflammation subsided in part. Repeated the same at evening 15 minutes, and it was removed entirely.—6th. The Tractors were applied 5 minutes on each arm with great relief. Repeated it at evening 18 minutes, and the pains were eradicated.—Dismissed cured.

JOHN DENTON, *Æ.* 38, recommended by Mr. BRAY, admitted July 10th 1799.—T. BROWN Physician.

Rheumatism, chiefly affecting the right Shoulder.

Operated 8 minutes; he found much relief. At evening but little better as to pain; he was, however, able to move his arm much easier than before. Used the Tractors 15 minutes; the pain removed further down the arm. Continued the application 10 minutes longer; the pain was totally relieved.—This complaint had affected him severely for ten years.—Dismissed cured.

WILLIAM ROGERSON, *Æ.* 24, recommended by the LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM, admitted July 11th 1799.—T. BROWN, Physician.

Violent Pains in the Loins and Head, with continual Sickness.

July 12th. The Tractors were used 12 minutes; considerably relieved. At evening repeated for the
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same time; pains easy.—13th. They were used twice, and he felt himself perfectly cured. This night he vomited a large worm.—14th. No return of his complaints. The sickness left him after the first application.—Dismissed cured.

GEORGE ARMSTRONG, *Æ.* 8, recommended by WM. PEARETH, Esq; admitted August 8th, 1799.

Acute Pain in the left Shoulder.

Dr. BROWN applied the Tractors himself, in the direction from his shoulder to his elbow, about 15 minutes, which gave him much relief—9th. He complained of but very little pain. The applications were repeated four or five times, when he was dismissed cured.

ROBERT FERGUSON, *Æ.* 46, recommended by Mr. GRAHAM, admitted August 19th, 1799.—A. SCOTT, Physician.

Severe Rheumatism in his Loins, and adjacent Parts.

August 20th. The Tractors were applied, in a direction from his hip to his knee, 12 minutes, after which the pains were not so severe. The application being repeated 14 minutes at night, he found the pain remove into his knee.—21st. The Tractors were used 10 minutes; he was much relieved. Repeated the same at night, and the pain was removed to the ankle.—22d. The Tractors were applied twice; the pain left his ankle, and he found himself totally relieved.—Dismissed cured.

ANN SQUIRES, *Æ.* 55, recommended by Mr. THOMPSON, admitted September 9th, 1799.—A. SCOTT, Physician.

Acute Pain in the Hip.

Sept. 10th. Ten minutes application of the Tractors

tors gave her much relief. They were continued twice a day until the 14th, when she was dismissed cured.

WILLIAM TODD, *Æ.* 8, recommended by Mr. T. HORN, admitted Sept. 9th, 1799.—A. SCOTT, Physician.

Inflammation in the Eye, with violent Pain in the Head.

Sept. 10th. The Tractors were drawn over the lid of the eye, and down the face, 12 minutes, during which the pain was relieved. At night the application was repeated, and a copious discharge of water ensued; the inflammation subsided a little.—11th. The Tractors were used as before, and it nearly ceased; the pain in the head entirely left him. The same was repeated 20 minutes at evening, and now the inflammation of the eye actually disappeared.—Dismissed cured.

JAMES SHARP, *Æ.* 25, recommended by Mr. REED, admitted Nov. 18th, 1799.—A. SCOTT, Physician.

Severe Chronic Rheumatism in the Hip.

Nov. 19th. The Tractors were applied 20 minutes, in a direction from his hip to his knee, which gave him great relief. At night it was as bad as before. On operating then 25 minutes, the pain was removed into the knee.—Next morning, 20th, another operation drew it into his ankle. At evening, on repeating it, there remained little or no pain.—21st. The Tractors were used 30 minutes, after which he found himself perfectly relieved. They have been repeated daily since, merely to prevent a return.

*To be had by the Publishers of this Treatise, Price 2s. 6d.
by the same Author :*

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N. B. All persons who are in possession of the Tractors, should also own the above works, as every circumstance pertaining to the Metallic Practice is in them treated of much more copiously than in the present.

